

Baxter County History



*The Wolf House
The oldest and most
Historic home in
Baxter County*

Photo courtesy of Ray Grass

VOLUME 19 NO. 3
JUNE, JULY AND
AUGUST ISSUE
1993

IN THIS ISSUE:
**AT SHIPPS FERRY, BAXTER
COUNTY'S VERY EARLY
HISTORY WAS FOUND IN
ARCHEAOLOGICAL DIG**

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THE BAXTER COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

JULY, AUGUST, & SEPTEMBER ISSUE
VOLUME 19 NO. 3
"THE BAXTER COUNTY HISTORY"

Published by The Baxter County Historical Society
Mountain Home, Arkansas

Regular meetings are held at 7:30 P.M. on the first Thursday of each month at the Day Service Center, Leo Davis Dr. & 16th St., Mountain Home, Arkansas.

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

Annual Dues are due and payable to the Treasurer at the January meeting or can be mailed to the Treasurer. The fiscal year begins January 1. New members may join at any time and are always welcome.

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Contributions of material for the "History" should be sent to the Editor. The Society or the Editor do not assume responsibility for statements made by contributors.

THE SHIPPS FERRY SITE, BAXTER COUNTY, ARKANSAS

By John H. House, Pete Shiras & Howard M. Knight
Mountain Home, AR.

The Shippo Ferry site on the White River in Baxter County, Arkansas, was selected for concerted excavation by members of the Arkansas Archeological Society in 1964 because of the many Indian artifacts that had been collected there over the years. Material recovered was processed by the Twin Lakes Chapter of the Society. Excavation of a shell midden and another promising area 1 mile downstream produced dart and arrow points, knives, scrapers, spades, a few bone tools and predominantly shell-tempered postsherds. The Shippo Ferry site is notable for the discovery there in 1958 of the remains of a pair of Long-Nosed God masks made of shell.

INTRODUCTION

This was the first Society-sponsored dig and training program, and it was judged a success in spite of rain and heat.

The cleaning, identification, and analysis of the artifacts found were carried out by the following members of the Twin Lakes Chapter: Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Colston, John House, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Knight, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Mathews, Dorothy Messick, Mr. and Mrs. Pete Shiras, Mr. and Mrs. Bert Shoemaker, Mr. and Mrs. Quinby Smith, Edward Steffler, and Mr. and Mrs. Warlow Tyler. They all agree that this was a much bigger job than they had anticipated, that it was educational and personally rewarding, and that they now have a much greater appreciation of what the Central Office of the Society is doing.

SITE DESCRIPTION

The Shippo Ferry site is named after a ferry operated on the White River, at the site. The site is on the right bank of the White River on or about the edge of the upper terrace, 2 miles long and paralleling the river approximately 12 miles south of Mountain Home.

Most of the surface rock is Cotter dolomite, which is gray and contains chert and a few beds of sandstone and gray shale. The chert was important to this site as it was the "flint" used in making the abundant chipped artifacts.

The site is located in the part of the Ozark Uplift known as the Salem Plateau and is surrounded by hills. As in many parts of North Arkansas, the White River flows at the bottom of a canyon with high steep hillsides and bluffs on either sides, either immediately on the river or beyond a strip of bottom land. The site is on a "second bottom", the second terrace above the present river bed.

The site is well situated. The mouth of the Buffalo River is 6 miles upstream, the mouth of the North Fork of the White River is 4 miles downstream, and across the White River from part of the site is the mouth of a creek that rises 14 miles to the north. The White River is relatively shallow here. The Shippo Ferry Site occupies what is now some of the best farmland in Baxter County.

With two exceptions the site is entirely encompassed by the river of the bluffs that rise on the southern edge of the alluvial bottom land. The exception are two hollows that penetrate the near area doubtless was a well used pass for game and human traffic, for it provides the best access to the south of any place for miles in either direction.

Artifacts have been found all along the site's length.

FIELD METHODS

Site datum was established at the center of a stone marker at the entrance to the Ozark National Forest. An east-west trench 50 feet long was laid out as Area 1. This consisted of ten 5x5 foot units, with alternate units being excavated.

Area 2, "the old cotton patch" between Areas 1 and 3, was not in cultivation at the time. It yielded a comparatively small surface collection and so was not chosen for excavation.

A secondary datum was established for Area 3 one mile downstream. Two east-west trenches 50 feet long were laid out at such locations as to do minimal damage to crops planted in part of the area. These trenches like that in Area 1, consisted of 5x5 foot units. In the west trench only six of the units were excavated. In the east trench all ten units were excavated. Five additional units that coincided with some of the cache or refuse pits were also excavated.

In both areas 1 and 3 the excavation was done in 4-inch levels. The soil taken from the pits was screened and all of the archeological material was saved for further study.

FEATURES

All of the features discovered were in Area 3. During the excavation of Area 2 in August 1964, four basin-shaped areas filled with dark soil, charcoal, and other material were found. These have been identified as pits, probably dug as cache pits that were later filled with refuse by the Indians.

The first of these was a pit which contained a large number of shell-tempered potsherds.

Feature 2, contained much charcoal, a deposit of univalve shells, and some shell tempered pottery.

Feature 3 contained much charcoal and some mussel shell.

Feature 4 was a cache of refuse pit that contained 2 stone hoes, much charcoal, and shell-tempered pottery.

All of these features contained unidentified bone, some of which showed evidence of having been burned.

The exact dimensions of the features were impossible to determine due to the fact that cultivation had destroyed the pit outlines, but each was about 3 feet in diameter and extended to a depth of about 2 feet.

During the preliminary investigation such features were visible in the recently plowed, rain dampened soil. Five of these were excavated at that time, yielding bone, shell tempered pottery, and charcoal.

STRUCTURES

Although it is likely that the site was occupied at time by house builders, this excavation produced only limited evidence of structures.

One piece of clay daub bearing cane impressions was found. It is smoke stained and fired but not burned red.

Several other pieces of fired clay were found at Area 3. They are flat on both sides and have a heavy mixture of sand. These may have been part of a house floor.

ARTIFACTS

UNMODIFIED BONE

Area 1 produced 172 pieces of large mammal bone and 1 tooth tentatively identified as that of a deer.

The aggregate of bone from Area 3 consisted of 257 pieces. Of this number 218 pieces were associated with the cache pits and included 46 pieces of large mammal bone, of which 6 have been tentatively identified as those of deer. The remaining identifiable fragments consisted of 39 small mammal bones, 59 pieces of turtle shell, and 5 turtle bones. Four of the pieces of bone show evidence of having been burned.

Among the 39 bones not associated with the cache pits, there are 32 large mammal bones, 1 small mammal bone, 1 tooth, 2 pieces of turtle shell and 1 fish bone.

WORKED BONE

Bone Awls:

There were 3 fragmentary bone awls found in Area 3. All of these were associated with Feature 2. They seem to have been made from sharpened slivers of a hollow, cylindrical long bones and have acquired a polish from use.

Unidentified Bone Tool:

One flat piece of bone, the remaining portion of which is 4.5 cm long and 2.0 cm. wide at the widest point where it was broken, was found associated with Feature 1. The tool has excurvate sides and tapers to a point. It has four worn facets on the edges near the tip. Three, all on one side, are perpendicular to the plane of the artifact. The fourth on the other side, is an acute angle to the plane of the artifact. The tool shows considerable use polish.

SHELL

Shell of both mussels and univalves, or "snails", was found at the site. 18 pieces of shell were present in the first two levels at area 1. 1611 pieces of shell were found in area 3. None

of the pieces found showed evidence of having been used as beads or other ornament. Previous finds at Shippo Ferry have included shell beads and two specimens of the long-Nosed God mask made of shell.

STONE

In recent years thousands of stone artifacts have been taken from the Shippo Ferry site. These included projectile points and other forms.

PROJECTILE POINTS

A total of 147 projectile points were found with 122 points found on the surface and 25 from pit excavations. Small points were found in all but the lowest level and large dart points occurred from lower to upper levels.

The projectile points were classified into a total of 38 general groups.

OTHER STONE ARTIFACTS.

The flaked tools were made from numerous grades of chalcedonic silica, locally called chert, and quartzite. The manos, hammerstones, and grinders are nearly all stream-worn rocks of quartzite or sandstone that was also used to make crude hoes and hand tools. Nearly 15% of the scrapers, knives, manos and hammerstones are of quartzite. Very little shaping by pecking was found. Very rarely did any show a pit or cavity similar to the stones of northeast Arkansas. Practically no polishing was found. One hoe has its cutting edge polished. Flaking was apparently relied on to give the cutting or scraping edge.

Many tools had more than one possible use, e.g. many have both a scraper and a knife edge and some had a chisel edge combined with a scraper edge. Many of the scrapers and knives were apparently made from rejects or broken projectile points and spears.

The manos and hammerstones are usually rocks that could be found in a stream bed and required no reworking. Manos were probably sometimes used as hammerstones judging from the fragments of manos found. The choppers were roughly worked chert nodules or masses.

The soil being sandy and easy to work would account for the comparatively fragile hoes made of weak grades of dolomite.

KNIVES

Knife shape varies from ovate to roughly triangular. Both uniface and biface forms were found. The quality of workmanship varies greatly. They were shaped by broad, random, percussion flaking with often some retouching of the edges. The lengths averaged 4.5 cm, widths averaging about 2.7 cm, and the thickness averaged 0.5 cm.

SCRAPERS

Scrapers are distinguished from the knives by the larger angle between the plane of the artifact and the flaked surface. They are usually cruder, with broader percussion flaking and very little reworking of the edges. Lengths ran from 5.3 cm to 9.9 cm and widths from 8.8 to 5.5 cm. Thickness was from 3.0 cm to 1.7 cm.

DRILLS

Three drills were found in Area 3. 1 specimen was a surface find and shows very fine workmanship. It is small, 2.1 cm long. The other two were found in the first level; 17.1 cm. long and other 3.7 cm. long

HOES

Ten hoes were found, one on the surface at Area 1, seven on the surface in Area 3 and two at feature 4. Five were of chert and five of dolomitic limestone. One dolomite hoe, a surface find has a polished cutting edge.

MANOS

Six manos and seven fragments were found. Three manos and two fragments were found on the surface in Area 2, one mano and two fragments on the surface in Area 3 and two manos and three fragments in Area 3 excavation. They varied in lengths from 20.0 cm to 9.6 cm, in wide from 10.0 cm to 7.0 cm and in thickness from 6.6 cm to 3.8 cm. All were quartzite. Three show fairly heavy use and others light use. Two fragments might indicate they were sometimes used for something besides manos - possibly as hammerstones.

HAMMERSTONES

These specimens are unmodified river stones that show evidence of battering. They are nearly equally divided between quartzite and chert. Four were found on the surface of Area 3 and seven were found on the first level.

POTTERY

Pottery from the site is predominantly shell tempered. 306 vessel sherds were found of which 275 are shell tempered, 30 are grit tempered and 1 is apparently fiber tempered. All are without decoration. One was made with a handle punctuated at the top in three places to accommodate a riveted strap.

The composition of the sherds when investigated under a magnification glass reveals a few pieces of shell, possibly included by accident. The clay is well worked and some of the vessels have apparently been more uniformly fired than others. The exterior surface is polished to a finish that will in some areas reflect light.

DISCUSSION

Excavation of the site holds promise of adding to the knowledge of this archeological unknown area. The area of the site is geographically intermediate between the better known areas of Oklahoma and eastern Arkansas. The White River, on which the site is located may have been an important means of communication between those areas.

The site has much in common with many of the other sites along the rivers in this area in that it has evidence of occupation over a long span of time.

A disappointing aspect of the excavation was the lack of stratigraph in Area 3. With the exception of the material at the bottom of the cache pits, the levels beneath the plow zone was almost sterile. the concentration of the artifacts on the surface and the fact that the cache pits seem to have been cut of at the ground surface leads one to suspect that erosion has lowered the ground surface during the 100 or so years that the site has been cultivated.

Many thousands of artifacts that have been taken from the site seem to indicate that it was very heavily occupied, at least relative to the other sites in the area. The natural setting with its access to the uplands on either side of the river suggests that the site might have been a crossroads for the aboriginal inhabitants of the Baxter County area.

There is still too little known about the prehistory of North-central Arkansas to justify drawing many conclusions from the projectile point evidence. The most we can do is to point to the diversity and number of types and their evidently broad temporal range.

The relative abundance of shell-tempered pottery and small arrow points suggests considerable occupation within the last 1000 years.

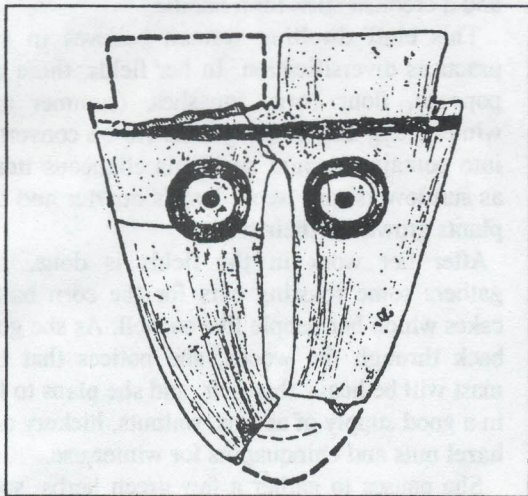
The cache pits containing shell-tempered pottery, bone, charcoal, and shell are a trait that Shipp's Ferry has in common with the Young site but the absence of burials in the same area of Shipp's Ferry is a difference that may be noteworthy.

The pottery from Shipp's Ferry is chiefly shell tempered and resembles Neosho Focus pottery from Oklahoma in its temper and the presence of flat bases. It is possible, however, that unrecognizable round bottomed vessels are represented.

The two Long-Nosed God masks from the Shipp's Ferry site [1961] are very rare specimens of aboriginal art that seem to have relationships to the early and middle Mississippi Southern Cult. the presence of these two artifacts in an area considered to be far from the nuclei of Mississippi stage culture is a tantalizing promise of interesting and important things to be learned about the archeology of this area.

Editor: The Article describing the Shipp's Ferry Dig in the Bulletin of the Arkansas Archeological Society was furnished by Hester A. Davis, of the University of Arkansas Museum. We wish to thank Miss Davis for the permission to reprint the official report of the dig. Space restrictions has forced the abridging of the full report of the Shipp's Ferry Dig. To read the full report see the "The Arkansas Archeologist" Bulletin of the Arkansas Archeological Society, Volume 10, Number 4, Winter 1969

The Twin Lakes Chapter of the Arkansas Archeological Society has curtailed its activity and now meets annually. For more information about the Twin Lakes Chapter., Call Dr. James Lowe at 425-9774.



THE LONG-NOSED GOD MASK

*THE "NON- NOSED GOD"
MASK*

By Hester A. Davis
University of Arkansas Museum
[Excerpted]

The Long-Nosed God mask as a stylistic representation of the human head has been found in various forms and of various materials in seven sites. Prior to the discovery of the pair at the Shippys Ferry Site, [by Bert and Louise Shoemaker of Bull Shoals, Arkansas] there were eleven to fourteen specimens known—depending upon whether one included in the total the two representation on Big Boy and the "short-nosed" specimen described by Griffin and Morse [1961]

The reconstructed mask from Shippys Ferry measures two and three-eighths inches in height and two inches in width. The half of the second specimen is exactly the same height and almost exactly the same width. Two features set apart these specimens from the other shell masks found. On the Shippys Ferry pair no nose has been formed: instead, a slit or hole has been made, presumably to insert the representation of the long nose. This pair is also one half to one inch greater in height than the other known shell specimens. In both these characteristics, however, the Shippys Ferry specimens resemble the copper specimens of Fulton Co. Illinois. The Shippys Ferry pair approximates the copper specimens in dimensions.

It is noted that the half piece of shell mask has a hole drilled from the front side at what would be the left side of the mouth. This is now known in any of the other representations and the suggestion has been made that the mask broke while in use and was held together by further use by drilling holes and binding the pieces together.

The long slender triangular worked piece of shell which was plowed up at the same time as the masks is two and seven-eighths inches long and three-quarters of an inch across its base. It has a slight curve, presumably the contour of the shell. Our first thought was that this triangular piece represents the long nose and should fit into the slit in the mask, but the slit is much longer and wider than is the base of the triangular piece. It could have been held in place by some perishable substance, but this cannot be determined.

The occurrence of these specimens in north-central Arkansas brings forth interesting speculations as to the area's possible relationships with Spiro and Cahokia and other groups across the Mississippi River to the east.

Editor: The "Long-Nose" God Mask described by Hester A. Davis was found in 1958 by Bert and Louise Shoemaker of Bull Shoals, Arkansas, members of the Twin Lakes Chapter of the Arkansas Archeological Society. They obtained the specimens, including the triangular piece described by Hester Davis, from the tenant farmer of the land at Shippys Ferry who had discovered them while plowing the land. They were not able to learn the exact spot of discovery and the farmer has since moved on and his whereabouts are unknown. The Shoemakers took their discovery to the University Museum in Fayetteville where Dr. McGimsey fitted the two pieces together and he and Miss Davis noted the similarity to the other specimens found in the Mississippi river area. These pieces were the first of their type found in Arkansas.

The full report of the site explorations and their collection of artifacts found on the site by Bert and Louise Shoemaker, see "The Arkansas Archeologist" bulletin of the Arkansas Archeological Society, Volume 10 number 4, winter 1969.

*LIFE IN THE OZARKS
FOR THE FIRST PEOPLE
THE CAVE DWELLERS*

Two thousand years ago an Indian woman held a squash in her hand and debated whether to cook it or put it away for another day. She thriftily decided to save it. Was there not some cold venison left? And some roasting ear batter for corn cakes? So she put the squash away. But something happened to that household. She never did cook that squash. It remained in the larder, preserved in dry limestone dust, to quicken the imagination of an inquisitive white man who found it there 2,000 years later.

This mother was a very busy woman, for she is of a race of people whose men were warriors and hunters and whose women are workers. The head of the house has departed on the chase, armed with keen darts which he can throw with astonishing skill. The beds are made, and right comfortable looking beds they are, too. Many of skins and grasses, they are situated in a corner behind rocks worn smooth as glass by the passage of human bodies over them countless number of times.

Before going to her hillside garden nearby, the Indian mother sits down to finish a pair of moccasins for the youngest papoose, who is asleep in a cradle made of lashed canes, the bark of the ironwood tree, and comfortably lined with grass mats and tanned buckskin robes.

The baby is wrapped in a fine blanket made of rabbit fur and fiber. When he finishes his nap, he will be enveloped in a remarkable garment made of thread with the down of ducks and geese wrapped around the fiber. It is soft, warm and light.

The Indian mother is using buckskin to fashion the moccasins for her child. She sews with leather thongs, and her needles are made of the shinbone of a deer, sharpened by rubbing. When she has finished, she will line it with down from the milkweed, soft and warm.

The Indian mother makes shoes for the entire family--moccasins of buckskin for winter and of grass for summer.

Now it is time for her to go the fields. She takes a large basket woven by her own hands. (She has a great variety of these, of all shapes and sizes, some used for winnowing and some for carrying produce for the garden.)

She also takes a hoe made of mussel shells and a crooked stick for a handle.

This bluff dwelling woman believes in and practices diversification. In her fields, there are popcorn, flour corn, squashes, (summer and winter), egg and bottle gourds (to be converted into containers), and such miscellaneous items as sunflowers, pig weed, lamb's quarter and the plants grown for their seed.

After her work in the fields is done, she gathers some roasting ears for the corn batter cakes which her people like so well. As she goes back through the woods, she notices that the mast will be heavy this year, and she plans to lay in a good supply of acorns, walnuts, hickory and hazel nuts and chinquapins for winter use.

She pauses to gather a few green herbs, such as the wild calms, to be used for medicinal purposes, and a sprig of cedar to be burned as incense. For her weaving, she picks up some fiber plants--Indian hemp, bark of cedar and ironwood and various grasses.

She returns to the cave heavily laden, and discovers that the children have allowed the fire to go out. That causes her some annoyance, but no serious concern. She produces her fire sticks, a drill and bits of fungus to catch the sparks. Soon a blaze is going merrily in the fireplace oven.

The hunter husband will be returning soon now; so she sets about preparing the evening meal. He is sure to bring fresh meat, and she will have corn cake to go with it. She scrapes the green corn from the cob, using a grate made of the lower jaw of a deer and mixes a rich batter to be baked at the proper time on hot stones.

Then she tidies up the cave a bit, spreads a new carpet of leaves, and bedecks herself with a few ornaments for the coming of the lord and master. Necklaces and bracelets of bear teeth and colored seeds and touches of red ochre here and there effect the beautification she desires.

The hunter returns. He is a stalwart red man, and he brings much game on his broad shoulders--a deer slain with his darts, rabbits trapped in his nets, and a turkey or two.

Since the weather is still mild, he is dressed lightly, a belt, a breach clout made of grass and grass moccasins.

He deposits his booty, and the Indian wife is delighted to find included a highland terrapin. She will use the shell for a pot or a pan, for the

Bluff Dwellers do not know the art of pottery making.

The evening meal is prepared and the family dines heartily.

Returning to present day to our civilization and to the archaeologist who studies the homely articles found in a limestone cave and drew away the veil of 2000 years, and was able to present a picture of a culture and people long dead.

Every one of the artifacts seen in our "visit" with the Bluff Dweller's cave was found on various expeditions into the bluffs along the Buffalo and White Rivers, they are immeasurably valuable to the students of ancient cultures and add much to the sum of modern knowledge of the subject.

Most of the articles were found in caches, holes lined and covered with rocks and dirt, where they had been left when the family migrated. Naturally, the culture of women predominates over that of the men, for the caches were all in the homes.

In addition to the artifacts, picture writing on the walls give valuable information regarding the Bluff Dwellers, who as comparable to the people who preceded the Pueblo builders in the Southwest.

It is apparent, even to the novice, that the picture writings prove the ancient people were worshipers of the snakes and of the sun. Many of the writings are groups of frog, turtle and sun while others are representations of human figures. these were cabalistic symbols, such as are used by modern fraternal orders.

Dr. S. C. Dellinger, archaeologist of the University of Arkansas, was in charge of several expeditions in to the caves of northwestern Arkansas .

"How to find them!"

CANADIAN RESEARCH

Information on what is available in the National Provincial and private archives of Canada, as well as information on censuses, vital records and immigration and naturalization records, is contained in a free pamphlet, *"Tracing your Ancestors in Canada"*

For a copy, write Public Archives of Canada, 395 Wellington ST., Ottawa OH KIA ON3

HAIL TO THE CHIEF

When the President of the United States took office on January 20th, the music that hails his arrival as President and that is played on almost every official occasion, was *"Hail to the Chief"*.

The music derives from *"The Boat Song"* in Sir Walter Scott's *"The Lady of the Lake"*. In Scott's work, the music celebrates the arrival of a Highland Chief. It is believed to have been set to music by James Sanderson (1756-1841). Scott is better known for another song from the same work *"Ave Marie"*

EQUESTRIAN STATUES

Many towns and cities have equestrian statues in their parks. When you see such a statue, notice the position of the horse's feet. If all of the feet are on the ground, it means the rider died a natural death. If one hoof is raised, it means the rider died of a wound sustained in battle. Two hoofs in the air mean the rider was killed in battle. This is an international code followed by all sculptors.

MORE FILMING BY LDS

Over the next 5 years, 54 cameras from the LDS Family Library will be filming in 200 regional archives in the former USSR. Also, the 1881 British census is being indexed by 107 British Societies. Also a database of Civil War Soldiers is being compiled from 5.5 million index cards. Indexing of the 1880 US census is now 40% completed. And finally, World War I draft records are 50% filmed.

*GET A NEW MEMBER
USE THE APPLICATION
THAT WAS ON PAGE 30
VOLUME 19 NO. 1*

MAJOR WOLF THWARTS THIEF

One day Major Wolf, saw an old Choctaw Indian approaching his store and home at Norfolk. The local Choctaw Indian tribe had a reputation for thievery. He had suspected that this old indian had been stealing his axes. He had an axe slipped into the fire and heated almost white hot. It was withdrawn before the indian arrived at the house. The red man could not resist the opportunity or temptation of an ax laying out in plain sight. He grabbed it by the handle and thrust it under his blanket and departed. Soon the hills of the Norfolk were ringing with a despairing yell. The axe was found on the trail the fleeing indian had used.

COUNTY NAMED FOR GOVERNOR

Baxter County was named for Governor Elisha Baxter, Governor of the state directly after the Civil War. Governor Baxter was the only Republican governor the state ever had and was well liked by his Democratic brethren. The Brooks-Baxter War was caused by his efforts in behalf of the ex-Confederates. They were disenfranchised after the war and he enfranchised them, giving them back their vote. He was upheld by President Grant. One of his sons, Dr. Baxter practiced medicine at Melbourne.

After the County was formed a county government was organized. The first temporary court house was in R. D. Casey's store, which was located south of Mountain Home. First term of the court was held on July 7 1873. The county did not have a county judge until 1878, when Judge John S. Russell was elected. The affairs of the county were looked after by a board of three commissioners. The first board of commissioners was composed of B. F. Lance, O. L. Dodd and Byrd Deatherage.

The first county clerk was C. A. "Clem" Eatman; first representative R. D. Casey; A. C. Byler was the first sheriff, John W. Haley, first treasurer, and P. E. Jordan, first surveyor. Jesse Mooney and H. C. Allen were the county attorneys. The clerk's bond in those days was \$10,000; Sheriff's bond \$6,000 and Surveyor's bond \$3,000.

The first court house was a frame and log structure. It burned in 1879. A frame court house was erected on the site of the present one. This burned in 1889. A part of the records were destroyed in this fire. Others were damaged, but were legible enough to copy. The frame court house was replaced by the present brick structure. Additions and improvements have been made on it from time to time.

STATE OF MISSOURI INCREASES RECORDS FEES

Effective August 28 1992, Missouri has increased the fee for birth and death records from \$4.00 to \$10.00. This fee is required for a 5-year search regardless if record is found or not. One may re-submit request within 30 days, without charge, if new information is found. Missouri Dept. of Health maintains an index of marriages and divorces/dissolutions from July 1948 which shows date and county of the event.

OLD HOME REMEDIES

Teething Babies: Kill a mole, cut off one of its feet and tie it to a string. Tie the string around the baby's neck and the teeth will pop through the gums without pain.

Warts: (1) Steal someone's dishrag. Rub it on warts and hide it. Warts will go away. (2) Make the wart bleed. Put a drop of blood on grain of corn and feed it to the rooster. (3) Stump water is real good for warts.

"How to find them!"
WORLD WAR I
DRAFT INFO AVAILABLE

2.4 million cards containing draft records of World War I Draft were made during 1917 and 1918. They contained information on all men [native born or alien] between the ages of 18 and 45/ The information gives their full name, full date and place of birth, race, citizenship, and occupation, personal description and signature. Not all men who registered actually served in the military; not all men who served in the military registered for the draft. The draft records are not military service records. They have no information about a person's military service. About 4.8 million men actually served in the US Armed Forces between April 1917 and November 1918.

The draft records are arranged by State; then county or city [except for Connecticut, Maine and Rhode Island, which are arranged by divisions and counties]; then alphabetically by the names of the registrants.

To obtain the copy of the actual card from the National Archives, you must supply complete name and address and a \$5 fee. Write to: Branch-National Archives

1557 St. Joseph Ave,
East Point, GA 30044

The states from Alabama through North Carolina are currently available at the Family History Library [Mormons] by film. The rest will be available when they have been catalogued. To find microfilm numbers, search the locality section of the Family History Library Catalog under "United States-Military Records-World War 1914 - 1918".

To obtain microfilm numbers for states not yet listed in the catalog, write to the:

Correspondence Unit
35 North West Temple St.
Family History Library
Salt Lake City, UT 84150

Some World War I service and burial records are available in the library catalog under the [State] Military Records or they can be ordered from National Personnel Records Center, 9700 Page Boulevard, St. Louis, MO 63132-5100

**OLD ARKANA SCHOOL TO BE
RESTORED**

A group of Baxter County's Arkana area citizens and interested parties met on Saturday July 23 to organize and set plans to restore the Old Arkana School Building, which is located adjacent to the Arkana Cemetery on highway 201. The old structure has fallen into disrepair and has been vandalized in the past.

The structure is thought to have been constructed in the 1880s. It was used for many years to educate the young of the Arkana Community. The school is one of the few remaining landmarks in Baxter County and a majority of the group desired to see the school restored.

The Meeting was attended by about 20 interested persons and was chaired by Rev. Vern Pickford of the Arkana Baptist church, who served as moderator for the group. After an invitation to air views, several members voiced their reluctance to the project, citing experiences of vandalism to the school in the past and the potential for vandalism after the restoration. Others spoke of their desire to see the old building resored. After a lengthy discussion it was determined the groups desired to restore the building,. A committee was then elected to progress the restoration.. Roy Farris was elected president, Ralph Boyd vice president, Sue Gary secretary and treasurer and Dennis Cowan, historian.

It was generally agreed that the clearing of the brush, etc, around the building was the first phase of the work to be progressed. A work day was set for Wednesday July 28 to do the clearing.

A rough cost estimate had been made to restore the exterior of the structure, restore missing flooring, reinstall windows and repair the front sills.. This cost is estimated to be about \$7.000. Electrical, heating and plumbing for the building have not been estimated as yet. The group also decided that the restored school should be used as a community building.

An unnamed member of the group has donated \$2500 if matching donations are made. An additional \$1000 was also pledged during the meeting. Pledges of labor and materials were also made. The members decided to solicit funds under the name of "The Old Arkana School Restoration Fund". A bank account and

address for donation fund will be announced at a later date.

It is a positive step that the committee is taking. The "History" applauds their efforts and will watch their progress in the restoration of the 1880 building with great interest. We wish them well and will cooperate with them as much as possible.

CHRISTMAS AT THE WHITE HOUSE

Christmas has been celebrated differently by each president.

Although George Washington never lived in the White House, he always wrote cards and letters to friends on Christmas Day. This was decades before the tradition of mailing cards began.

John Adams was the first president to live in the White House. In 1805, widower Thomas Jefferson invited all six of his grandchildren to the White House and threw an enormous Christmas party. Dolly Madison, whose husband was then Secretary of State, acted as hostess to the 100 children attending. Jefferson was so caught up in the festivities, he grabbed his violin and played some "zesty" tunes for his guests.

Andrew Jackson filled the White House with Washington, DC. children in 1835 and because of a lack of snow, they threw starch coated cotton balls in the East Room. Tad Lincoln refused to let the Christmas turkey be killed and kept it for a pet at the White House.

Mrs. Calvin Coolidge was the first to use electric lights on the trees and in the decorations. The Eisenhowers hold the record for the largest number of trees, 26 with one even being placed in the laundry room! Pat Nixon established the candlelight tours and during the first year 40,000 people a day toured the White House.

Each president has added their own personal touch to the White House Christmas. Priceless antique decorations have been collected during the years and Jackie Kennedy is responsible for getting a law passed stating that nothing could be sold from the White House or any of the gifts received by the Presidents. If they did not want them, the gifts are given to the Smithsonian.

---Editor: Since this is the last issue before Christmas, may I be the first to

wish you a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

"How to find them" PRISONER OF WAR RECORDS

Are you researching an ancestor who was a prisoner of war?

If so, you should know that a service exists to help you with the POW's record. This is for any POW in any war, including the Civil War. Send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Andersonville National Historical Site, Route 1k, Box 85, Andersonville, GA 31711. You should include the prisoner of war's name, which war, and any military information you may have, such as the military unit in which he served. you will be billed for copy service.

Tangling the Brances of a Family Tree

"Proof that a man can be his own grandfather. There was a widow and her daughter-in-law and a man and his son. The widow married the son, and the daughter, the old man. The widow was therefore mother of her husband's father; consequently, grandmother to her own husband. They had a son, to whom she was great-grandmother. Now, as the son of a great-grandmother must be either a grandfather or a great-uncle, this boy was therefore his own grandfather."

---[Alexandria] Louisiana Herald 4 May 1822

TITHABLE?????

When doing genealogical or historical research have you seen the word "Tithable"? In Colonial times this was a person, usually from 16 to 60 years of age, who was obliged to pay taxes.

Originally, a Tithable had to pay an assessment to the established church [Church of England] for the support of the church, the minister, and for the support of widows, orphans and poor in the parish. After the disestablishment of the Church of England

during the Revolutionary War, the tithes was paid to the county. An act of the Virginia General Assembly, passed 27, December 1792 provided:

1. That all male persons of the age of sixteen years and upwards, and all female slaves of the age of sixteen years and upwards, shall be, and they are hereby declared to be tithable, and chargeable for defraying the county levies and poor rates, except such only as the county courts may by reason of age, infirmity, or other charitable reasons, exempt from the payment of the public taxes."

Exempt from tithes under this act were the governor and his domestic servants, the president, master scholars or domestic servants of the College of William and Mary, ordained ministers, and any constable.

A colonial tax report showing tithables is proof of the number of males sixteen and over in the household.

--*Kentucky Genealogy Society "Blue Grass Roots" Vol. 19 no. 2*

SANTA CLAUS

(All from The Baxter Bulletin)

Dear Santa,

I want a Buffalo Bill Holster and pistol. I have been a good boy. I did want a BB gun but I changed my mind. I like things to build with too. I like airplanes, trains and cars. And I hope the other boys and girls get what they want.

Stanley Jones.

(December 15 1939)

Dear Santa,

Will you please bring me a hair ribbon to go on my hair and a pair of roller skates. My mother says that I have been a very good girl. She said that she would let me write to you. My name is Virginia Eileen Martin and Santa, I want some oranges, apples, candy and all kinds of nuts. But best of all, Santa, don't forget the other little boys and girls - Thank You,

Your Friend,

Virginia Eileen Martin,

(December 22 1939)

Dear Santa,
Please bring me a "22" and four boxes of shells. I like things to build with and I would like to have a train.

Your Friend

Jay Baker

(December 22 1939)

Editor: Did you notice that all of the above letters were written by present members of the Society?

NEW WALL AT ELLIS ISLAND TO HONOR IMMIGRANTS

The Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundations is once again offering the opportunity to add your immigrant ancestors name to a new section of the "American Immigrant Wall of Honor". The 420,000 responses to past offers has far exceeded expectations, so, another addition is being made to the wall.

Your immigrant need not have arrived at New York to be included. The name of any immigrant is welcome. Your donation of \$100 will add your ancestors's name to the wall and enable workmen to stabilize or restore the remaining buildings on Ellis Island's north side. You will receive a certificate with your ancestor's name and the country of emigration.

WORK ON THE ROLLINS HOSPITAL PROGRESSES

(From the Baxter Bulletin May 5 1939 Issue)

Work on the new addition to the Rollins Hospital at Gassville is progressing nicely and the addition will probably be completed in 6 weeks or 2 months. The latest improvement is a fine big neon sign that slants from the front of the building. It was installed last week and lights up the whole Main Street

HISTORICAL AND BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES
THE EARLY SETTLEMENT OF THE WHITE
RIVER VALLEY

BY A. J. JEFFREY

(Written for the Melbourne Clipper 1877)

CHAPTER XVII

(2nd chapter with same number)

Reprinted Sept 13 1895 in The Mountain Echo

At a very early date the Everett brothers came to the valley of White River. They first came to Lawrence County of Black River; however, they moved to White River some time after, and settled in the west part of Izard County, in that portion which is now included in Marion County. The families consisted of Old Sim, Old Jess and Old Bart and their families. A part of them were mechanics, if not all of them, and noted for being men of honesty and uprightness in all their transactions with men, but celebrated for their activity, great manhood and bravery, and given a great deal to fighting, few men were able to contend with them in combat. It was old Jess who encountered John Houston at the mouth of Big North Fork.

After Yellville was laid off as a town and begun to grow, Hansford Tutt, a man of some property and influence, settled in the town. He was, perhaps, a North Carolinian and not generally liked by his neighbors. After a time, a difficulty grew up between the Everetts and Tutts. This difficulty continued to grow year after year and was occasionally rekindled by combats in which the Everetts came off best. It progressed for ten years or more and resulted in the formation of two parties, known respectively as the Tutt and Everett parties and there were few citizens who were not in some way or other identified with one or the other of these parties. In the meantime, old Jess, who had gone into merchandising and river trading, sold out and went to Texas. However the contention did not abate by Old Jess moving away--there were young men who had grown up and had the bitterness of the occasion engrafted in their bosoms. In the summer of 1840, Jess Turner, Esq., had an appointment to speak at Yellville as a candidate for Presidential Elector. This appointment called out quite a number of people and the Everett and Tutt parties were both represented. A preliminary combat or two

rallied the fighting men of both sides in lines a few paces apart, without outside influence enough to quell it. At this critical moment a terrific dry whirl-wind passed over the crowd--scattered their hats and filled the air with dust; this so confused the parties that they got apart and dispersed for the time. However, the Everett party, who lived in the country, mounted late in the evening and rode off, but before they got out of hearing, the noise of a row reached their ears--they wheeled and rushed back, when the fight become general and in a few moments there were four or five men killed and several knocked down and wounded.

There were four brothers named King, who figured as champions on the Tutt side. Old Sam and Bart seemed to be most dreaded by the Tutt party. They were said to have been held by the arms by some whilst others shot them; they were both killed, and young France Everett wounded. All the killed at this time were of the Everett party, the Tutt party having taken the advantage of their charge. Young France Everett immediately left for Texas for his uncle Jess. Old Jess, on receiving young France's report, made his will, armed himself, took young France and a man named Stratton, and came back to Arkansas. They arrested the King brothers over toward the Arkansas river and started toward Yellville with them. They took them a short distance and killed three of them, the fourth one made his escape. Soon after a shot was fired at Hamp Tutt, as he passed the road, without taking effect. He then quartered himself at home and kept a strong guard of armed men about him. A writ was placed in the hands of the sheriff for Old Jess and his escort. The sheriff took a posse of about one hundred men and went to where old Jess was known to be, but on finding him, he had more men than the sheriff. It was said Old Jess run up the red handkerchief and offered battle, the sheriff declined to accept and returned to town. Applications were made to the Governor and

about 500 militia ordered out. The militia succeeded in surrounding and capturing Old Jess, Stratton and Young France and lodged them in the Lawrence county jail. Soon after, a party of about 40 men armed with implements to work with, went to the jail late in the night and broke down the jail door and mounted Old Jess and his boys and they all rode away in triumph. The news of old Jess being at liberty only made old Hamp stick closer to his quarters. Some months after Old Hamp stepped outside his door, just at day, and was washing in a china bowl, a gun fired and the bullet struck the bowl, but old Hamp stepped inside the door unhurt. After some months of fruitless efforts trying to get old Hamp, Old Jess was known to leave the country for Texas, where he died soon after, but it was believed that he left parties not so well known as himself to watch the movements of old Hamp. There was occasionally a man killed, and old Hamp kept close quarters. Thus time moved on, for about twelve months, when old Hamp got to walking around, generally between two men. In this situation he was shot from ambush, at a long range, with a rifle, whilst walking in a retired street; he lived a few days and died. It was said he charged his friends to let his death be the end of the affair. This rioting known as the Yellville war, lasted about eighteen or twenty months, in which there were said to have been about fourteen men killed. The parties identified in this war, who escaped, generally dispersed to their counties, and the county settled with new men. It was thought that the sympathy of the county was largely in favor of the Everetts.

**

JOHN P. HOUSTON

Brother of President Sam Houston of Texas and one of the first clerks of IZARD County, if not the very first, he was a bachelor, educated, extensively read, and with a strong native intellect, amply qualified to occupy the highest position in the united States, had he not been shipwrecked by drunkenness. He wandered west from Tennessee and lodged in the clerk's office at Liberty (now Norfolk in Baxter County). He played an important part in putting the new county of IZARD in running order, he held office until he killed himself drinking, at Athens.

John P. Houston was a very large man, weighing over 200 pounds, very slow motioned and seemed to spend a good part of his time in

thinking about killing someone or keeping some one from killing him. He usually had his office arranged with his business table in the middle of the floor and he sat behind it. At his back was a smaller table, with every kind of weapons arranged on it., consisting of Bowie knives, dirks, pistols, etc. of the finest quality. He was said to have one Bowie knife costing 15 dollars a dirk costing 5 dollars. He was thought to have had nerve to use them. On one occasion at Liberty he had an affray with Jess Everett. Jess was a tall active man, weighing 180 to 190 pounds. Good grit as lived, the damn lie passed between him and Houston, when Houston reached back for his bowie and came around the table to Jess, when Jess knocked him flat in the floor and his knife flew out of his hand. He crawled back to his table, got another, came back, when Jess Everett leveled him with a chair on the floor. By this time other parties interfered and stopped it. On another occasion at Athens, he and Daniel Jeffery, then sheriff of IZARD county, were about to come together with weapons, but were prevented at that, Daniel Jeffery called him an "Infamous Old Atheist". This epithet was the foundation for a suit for slander in the Circuit Court in which John P. Houston recovered nothing for his damages.

About the last of his career in IZARD, Sam Houston was creating a great excitement in Texas. Apparently John had no love for his brother. John P. Houston used to say he had two more journeys to make; one was to go to Texas to kill old Sam Houston and the other was to go to Heaven. We have no account of his having ever made either of these journeys. Like Alexander the Great, in one respect, at least, he died drunk

Tell a friend about our Society. Just notify and send dues to our Treasurer Stella Jackson Lets get out membership up over the 200 mark

Experience is the name everyone
gives their mistakes!

54 YEARS OF BAXTER COUNTY HISTORY

A Speech by W. R. Jones (Editor-Mountain Echo) at Yellville Picnic August 1927

Baxter County came into being on March 24th 1873, while Elisha Baxter was governor and was named for him. It was under his regime that the constitution of 1874 was adopted.

Before 1873, Baxter had been a part of Marion County, White River was the principal cause of separation. Marion County, for some reason had no representative during the session of 1873; or there may have been an objection. A delegation of citizens from the east side of Marion County, went to Little Rock and asked for the separation and found no representative to object. Up to that time there were only twenty two senatorial districts. This section was in the third at that time; which contained the counties of Madison, Carrol, Fulton, IZARD and Marion. William Dugger was senator when Baxter was voted a Senator.

In the session that met in October 1874, after the Constitutional Convention, the 28th Senatorial district had been provided for, and the counties of Fulton, IZARD, Marion and Baxter had been transferred to the 23rd; and Carroll, Boone and Newton went to the old 3rd, Hon. D. G. Hart was Senator in 1875, and was the first Representative.

Hon. H. C. Tipton was Senator during the sessions of 1877 and 1879. Hon R. D. Casey was Representative in the 1875 Session, but records of Secretary of State do not show Baxter as represented in the House. In session of 1879, Hon Van B. Tate was Representative for Baxter. Senator Tipton was re-elected and served through the sessions of 1881 and 1883. Mr. Tate served as Representative during both of these sessions and was then elected to the Senate, where he served during the terms of 1885 and 1887. Hon. A. Byler was Representative in sessions of 1885 and again during the session of 1887.

Hon. W. E. Davidson, of IZARD County, was elected to the Senate, and served four sessions. Those of 1889, 1891, 1893 and 1895. The Representatives during that time were Hon. H. H. Hilton, 1889; Hon J. C. South for the sessions of 1891, 1893 and 1895. Mr. South was then elected to the Senate and served through the

sessions of 1897, 1899. During which Hon. William T. Hopper and Hon. James T. Jones were the representatives.

During the sessions of 1901 and 1903, Hon Joseph L. Short was Senator; and Hon. James T. Jones and Hon. Zephaniah M. Horton served as Representatives. Hon. Granville S. Rector was the senator through the sessions of 1905 and 1907. Baxter County was represented by Hon. Z. M. Horton and Hon. E. D. Smothers. Marion County was cut off of the 23rd Senatorial district while Mr. Short was Senator, during the session of 1901.

Hon. J. A. Watson was the Senator through the sessions of 1909 and 1911; and Hon. E. D. Smothers and Hon. Thomas Harvey Henley served as Representatives. During the sessions of 1913 and 1915 Hon. John C. Ashely was Senator, and Hon. Jackson V. Thrasher and Hon. Randolph C. Love served as Representatives. The Senator in the sessions of 1917 and 1919 was Hon. Elbert E. Godwin, and the Representative was Hon. Owen Kendrick, through both sessions. Then came Hon. William W. McCabe for the sessions of 1921 and 1923; and Hon. E. D. Smothers was the Representative during both sessions. During the last two sessions Hon. H. A. Northcutt served Baxter County in the House. The first County Judge was Mr. John S. Russell; and he served from 1874 to 1880. Russell was again Judge from 1888 to 1890. He was followed first time by J. H. Linn, who served one term. Then came J. W. Cypert, who served a total of ten years; but S. J. McGee served one term in between. In 1898 Hon. H. C. Love was elected County Judge and served eight years; from 1896 to 1904. He was followed for two terms by Hon J. T. Jones; 1904 to 1908. G. W. Walker served two terms as Judge, 1908 to 1912. Then came Edgar Douglas from 1912 to 1914, Judge Lee Jones served from 1914 to 1919, and Hon Z. M. Horton from 1919 to 1921, Judge Edgar Morris, 1921 to 1923, Hon J. T. Jones was again elected Judge and served from 1923 to 1924. M. E. Curlee served 1925 to 1927; followed by the present judge R. H. Hudson.

C. A. Eatman, Sr. served as Circuit Clerk from the organization of the County to 1886, seven terms or 14 years. He was followed by R. M. Hancock, who served four terms or eight years. Then came C. A. Eatman, Jr. who served nine terms or eighteen years. Eatman was followed by H. B. Aylor, who, when he had served out his present term, will have had eight terms or sixteen years.

The Sheriffs of Baxter County are as follows; The first was A. G. Byler, who served from 1873 to 1884, or six terms. He was again elected in 1890 and served until he was killed by Roper, whom he and a posse were trying to arrest. Jacob H. Wolf served three terms, from 1884 to 1890. Samuel Livingston served from 1892 to 1894. R. M. Hancock, ex-Circuit Clerk, served as Sheriff from 1894 to 1896. He was followed by G. W. Foster who served from 1896 to the year 1900. Foster was followed by R. H. Hudson, the present County Judge, who served from 1900 to 1904, as your sheriff. Then came Eugene W. Mooney, who was accidentally killed while in office. He and Leon Mooney, together, served from 1904 to 1912. When present Sheriff R. S. Hurst, has served out his present term, he will have held the office six terms. He was first elected in 1912, and served four terms. Jim Martin then served from 1921 to 1925 or two terms, Hurst being again reelected in 1924 and in 1926.

Baxter's first County Treasurer was William Denton. He served from 1872 to 1874. J. W. Hagdey served from 1874 to 1876. P. Henderson from 1876 to 1880; J. P. Crownover from 1880 to 1882; J. S. Howard from 1882 to 1888; W. B. Henderson from 1888 to 1896; J. W. Baker from 1896 to 1898. A. A. Wolf was then elected for two terms, 1898 to 1902. J. W. Baker then came back and served two terms from 1902 to 1906. Then A. A. Wolf came back and served five terms or ten years between 1906 and 1916. Then J. E. L. Cooper became County Treasurer and served ten years or from 1916 to 1923; when the present treasurer, Rudolf Bodenhamer, came in.

The following have been County Assessor: Hon. V. B. Tate started out into politics as Baxter's first Assessor. He served from 1873 to 1876. Then came E. H. Messick, 1876 to 1878; W. A. Collins, 1878 to 1882. One fine old newspaper man, J. A. Carter served four terms as Assessor. His first two terms were between 1882 and 1886. He then skipped to 1906 and

served to 1910. W. A. Collins came back in 1886 and served one term. He was followed by J. B. Schoggen, who served from 1888 to 1892. H. T. Patterson was Assessor from 1892 to 1896. Present County Judge, R. H. Hudson served as Assessor from 1896 to 1898. He was followed by J. H. Girkin, who served from 1898 to 1902. J. V. Thrasher served from 1902 to 1906. W. L. Loman followed Carter, and served from 1910 to 1912. J. H. Wolf came in 1912 and served to 1916. He was followed by M. E. Curlee, who was the Assessor 1916 to 1921. Leffel Smith was Assessor from 1921 to 1925. He was followed by Jesse Coffee, the present Assessor now serving his second term.

--Ed: Balance of W. R. Jones Speech on the History of Baxter County will be continued in the next issues of the Quarterly

FLAG FACTS

Not until World War I, did audiences stand when the "Star Spangled Banner" was played or sung [the national anthem was written in 1818 by Francis Scott Key]

CENSUS SEARCHES

Yes, you can make requests for census searches after 1920, for you, or a direct ancestor. Go to the local Social Security Office and ask for Form BC-600, entitled: "Application of Search of Census Records." Or, write Bureau of the Census, "Age Search", PO Box 1545, Jeffersonville, IN 47131. There is a \$25.00 fee.

A new medical patch has been discovered which assists in preventing overeating. It is called "Duct Tape". Just apply a 4 to 6 inch Strip to mouth!

COURTHOUSE PLAQUE HONORS HEROIC BAXTER COUNTY SHERIFF

On the fourth of May in 1968, Sheriff Emmett Edmonds was routinely feeding the prisoners in the county jail their breakfast. He and a city marshal had picked up the breakfast from the small cafe across the street from the courthouse. Edmonds had opened one jail and the marshal had just opened the cell of inmate Edwin Pitman. Pitman had secretly obtained a small automatic handgun. He burst out of the cell firing the handgun. The sheriff was fatally shot. The marshal attempted to disarm Pitman and had drawn his service revolver. In the scuffle, the marshal lost his gun to Pitman as he made his escape.

Within a few hours Mountain Home would become the center for an extensive manhunt. As warnings were issued the citizens armed themselves in near panic. The citizens were told that Pitman was armed and very dangerous.

Pitman was captured at Cotter in sixty five hours after his escape, convicted of the crime and is serving a life sentence in Cummins penitentiary.

Emmett Olin Edmonds was 49 years old at the time of his death. He was the father of two sons Jack and Joe and a daughter Susan "Susie". Emmett was a Baptist, a Mason and a World War II veteran. He also was a farmer and many of the people of the county considered him their friend. He had been sheriff for three terms, first elected in 1963.

Emmett had served in the State police for six years before he had become sheriff.

Emmett's wife Pauline Edmonds, had worked full time in the sheriff office. Upon the death of Emmett, Governor Winthrop Rockefeller appointed Pauline to fill the vacancy created by his death.

The Baxter Bulletin editorial in 1968 wrote of Emmett: "There was no hard-boiled bragger or over zealousness about Emmett; he was a man of peace and non violence..he dealt kindly with trouble. He carried out his duties in a quiet efficiency and without seeking glory, guarding against an excess of force".

Emmett Edmonds' son Joe H., later, following in his father's footsteps, became the Sheriff of Baxter County.

The Edmonds family have been involved in law enforcement for many years. Joe's great grandfather E. W. Mooney was sheriff in 1904. Mooney was killed in 1907 while bringing a prisoner home from Oklahoma on a train. An uncle Howard Powell was sheriff when the new court house was being constructed. Others have served as deputies.

The plaque honoring Emmett Edmonds was placed in the Baxter County Court house and reads as follows:

**EMMETT OLIN EDMONDS
SEPTEMBER 19 1918 - MAY 4 1968**

**"BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS
FOR THEY SHALL BE CALLED THE
CHILDREN OF GOD; MATTHEW 5-9
SERVED AS BAXTER COUNTY
SHERIFF JANUARY 1963
THROUGH 1968**

**PLAQUE DONATED BY
FRIENDS AND RESIDENTS
OF BAXTER COUNTY
IN REMEMBRANCE OF DEDICATED
AND UNSELFISH SERVICE TO
BAXTER COUNTY
SHERIFF EDMONDS MADE THE
SUPREME SACRIFICE
OF GIVING HIS LIFE
IN THE LINE OF DUTY
A FRIEND OF YOUNG AND OLD WHO
WAS RESPECTED BY ALL**

**"GREATER LOVE HATH
NO MAN THAN THIS
THAT A MAN LAY DOWN HIS LIFE
FOR HIS FRIENDS
JOHN 15-13**

The next time business takes you to the court house, stop and admire the plaque honoring Baxter County hero Emmett Edmonds..

**BENJAMIN F. W. BODENHAMER'S LEDGER
FOR 1892
WITH SOME ENTRIES FOR 1893-1899**

The following article, correct in some details and wrong in others, tells much about the life of Benjamin F. W. Bodenhamer.

CAPTAIN BENJAMIN F. BODENHAMER

It has been clearly demonstrated time and time again that "honesty is the best policy," and while a man may not gain wealth so rapidly, yet he can look his fellow-man in the face without fear of reproach, and know that he has wronged no one, and therefore can thoroughly enjoy what he has. Such a man is Capt. B. F. Bodenhamer, who was born in Greene County, Mo., in 1843, the son of Chapman W., who was a native of Giles County, Tenn., and grandson of Jacob Bodenhamer, who was one of the very earliest settlers of Greene County, Mo., his farm being situated on the prairie about six miles east of Springfield. Chapman W. Bodenhamer came to Baxter County, Arkansas, from Webster County, Mo., in 1880, and here is still living at the age of seventy years. His attention has been given to farming all his life, and he was for some time judge of the County Court of Webster County. During the war he was a member of the Missouri State Militia. His wife, who was Lucy W. Burford, was born in Tennessee. In Webster County Benjamin F. Bodenhamer attended the common schools for some time, then entered Wyman University of St. Louis, which he attended until the spring of 1862. In July of that year he dropped his books and entered the Federal service, becoming a member of Company E, Eighth Missouri Infantry, as a private, from which he was promoted to a captaincy. He was with the Eighth Missouri throughout the entire war, and served in Missouri, Arkansas and Tennessee, taking part in the battles of Prairie Grove, Forsyth, Bloomfield, Mo., Devall's Bluff, Little Rock besides some other engagements of less note and numerous skirmishes. He was never severely wounded, and August 6, 1865, was honorably discharged at St. Louis, after which he returned home. He then attended school for one year and then turned his attention to merchandising in Webster County, Mo. In 1871 he came to what is now Baxter County, at Mountain Home, in partnership with G. Potter, but at the end of seven years became associated with J. H. Case in his stead, and this connection lasted two years. Following this he was associated with James Littlefield eight years, and since then has been in business alone. During all this time he has also given much attention to farming and handling stock, and has met with fair success. He and James Littlefield are the joint owners of five farms, and he owns three farms of his own in various portions of the county, his own land amounting to 450 acres and that which he owns with Mr. Littlefield 880 acres. His time is fully occupied and he may be termed one of the "hustlers" of Baxter County, for his property has been acquired through his own good management and foresight. Although he is active in politics and a staunch Republican, he is not an official aspirant, for he has no time for

that work, his entire attention being required in the management of his business interests. He is a member of the I.O.O.F., in which he has attained to the encampment, and he has represented his lodge in the Grand Lodge of the State. In 1875, he was married to Lily B. Howard, of this county, but a native of Wisconsin, and by her has six sons and one daughter. Mrs. Bodenhamer is a member of the Christian Church and is an amiable and worthy lady.¹

[1. A Reminiscent History of the Ozark Region (Chicago: Goodspeed Brothers Publishing Co. 1894)

The ledger of accounts from Capt. Bodenhamer's store, containing hundreds of names of Baxter County residents, was preserved by his daughter, Luna Ada (Bodenhamer) Ramey, and his grandson, Ray R. Ramey, Jr. It has been indexed by his great-granddaughter, Judith Frances (Ramey) Sharp, who currently lives in Marietta, Georgia.

The accounts range from a full page of items purchased and the methods of payment (sometimes cash, sometimes produce or livestock, sometimes labor) to just a name with no further information. The years referenced indicate the first and last dates found in the account -- none of them have full information for all the years. The notation NY indicates that there is no date indicated; NGN indicates no given name. The comments are those written in the ledger itself.

Information in the accounts has obviously been written by three different people as there are three distinct types of handwriting, all relatively difficult to read. I have done my best to enter the names correctly -- however, please, check all alternate spellings. (Note, especially, if you are looking for Lankford, also see the entry for Ankford; if you are looking for Leachman, also check out Luchman; for Alexander, also see Alxander.) If you find a possible ancestor in this index and would like to receive a copy of one or more pages, send the name, page number and a SASE to: Judi Sharp, 1621 Milford Creek Overlook, Marietta, GA 30060.

[Editor: We appreciate member Judi Sharp sending in this great article about one more historical event in Baxter County's history. Space will not let us print the entire listing of the Bodenhamer customers in this issue, but the listing will continue in later issues of the "History"

SURNAME	GIVEN NAME	YEAR(S)	PAGE	SURNAME	GIVEN NAME	YEAR(S)	PAGE
Adams	Bettie, Mrs.	1892-1893	2	Alley	W. H.	1892-1893	1
Adams	Bettie	1893-1894	323	Alley	W. H.	1893-1895	7
Adams	Bettie, Mrs.	1895	178	Alsup	Frank	1894	19
Adams	Bob	1892	349	Alsup	T. S.	1894	19
Adams	J. T.	1892-1895	293	Alexander (sic)	J. H.	1893	167
Adams	Mrs.	1894	179	Amerman	William	1892	150
Adams	Mrs.	1896	179	Anderson	George	1892	349
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Admire	Jack	1895	112	Anglin	Jams	1895	30
Akins	T. M.	1893-1894	319	Anglin	Marion	NY	29
Aldridge	Joe	NY	54	Anglin	Mark	1892	298
Alexander	J. H.	1892	3	Anglin	Mark and Co.	1892	349
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Allen	H. C.	1893	321	Ankford ?	Henry	1895	23
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Alley	Don J.	1896	222	Atchison	Lex	NY	285

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Bodenhamer	B. F.	1892	9
Bodenhamer	C. W.	1892	350
Bodenhamer	D. J.	1892-1893	5
Bodenhamer	Geo.	1892	230
Bodenhamer	M. V.	1892	6
Bodenhamer	Will	1892	350
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Brim	Wm.	NY	137
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Brium ?	Will	1892-1893	231
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Bunnell	Jo	1896	93
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Cable	A. T.	1893	46
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Campbell	F. H.	NY	25
Cantrell	T. J.	1895	180
Carson	C. A.	NY	206
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Carson	T. A.	1892	374

SURNAME	GIVEN NAME	YEAR(S)	PAGE
Carson	T. A.	1893-1895	165
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Carter	J. A.	1892-1893	14
Carter	J. S.	1892-1894	17
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Carter	Joe N.	1892	377
Carter	Tobe	1892	234
Carter	Will	1892	287
Carter	Will	1893	322
Casey	Don J.	1892-1895	232
Casey	J. M.	1892	232
Casey	R. D.	1894-1895	15
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Chandler	Joe	1892-1893	157
Chandler	Joe	1893-1895	173
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Chenowirth and Bledsoe		1892	316
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Chick	Mrs.	1892-1893	314
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Copeland	A. J.	1892-1895	19
Copeland	D. L.	1892	235
Copeland	J. A.	1892	235
Copeland	Jess	NY	112
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Coudry	H. C.	1892	16
Covington	Dick	1892	382
Cox, Thorn and		1892	151
Cox and Cox		NY	126
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**WERE YOU BORN AT THE
ROLLINS HOSPITAL?**

The Society is planning a roster of babies born in the hospital. The roster will include name, date of the birth and the delivering doctor's name. If anyone knows of a person born in the Gassville "Rollins" Hospital, please contact the Garrs, at 1505 Mistletoe, Mountain Home, AR 72653 (Phone 501-425-0405)

OBITUARY

Dr. William James Rollins, age 63, died early Friday at his home in Cotter. He moved to Baxter County about 33 years ago from Oklahoma. In 1923 he founded the Hospital at Gassville which for many years was the only one in the County. He operated it until 1946 when he sold the institution and moved to Cotter and starting private practice there in 1951. He was a member of the Presbyterian Church and was the son of Elijah and Necie Oats Rollins. He was born February 9 1893 in Clanton, Alabama and was married December 24 1910 to Miss Ada Marie Russell. He belonged to Masonic Lodge No. 578 at Cotter and several medical organizations. Survivors include his wife, Ada Marie, a son Postmaster James Rollins of Cotter, three grandsons; James Austin Rollins of Jonesboro, Bill Rollins and Jim Rollins of Cotter and a sister Mrs. Mary E. Adkins of Bellflower, California. Burial was in Gassville Cemetery under the direction of the Roller Funeral Home.

-Baxter Bulletin Jan 10 1957

BOOKS DONATED

The Baxter County Historical Society voted to donate two books to the Baxter County Library in memory of the late Dell DeRolf, father of David DeRolf, secretary of the Society.

"Cherokee Roots, Vol. 1: Eastern CherokeeRolls" and "Cherokee Rolls, Vol 2, Western Cherokee Rolls"

Presentation of the books to the library was made by Vice President James Lowe.

Part III

**"I AM NOTHING BUT A POOR
SCRIBBLER"**

**SILAS TURNBO
AND HIS WRITINGS**

*By Lynn Morrow
Editor White River History Journal*

TURNBO GETS PAID FOR MANUSCRIPTS

Connelly wrote on May 4 1913, that he would try to send some money soon or in early June. He instructed Silas to write him when he was ready to leave New Mexico. Silas responded almost immediately that he was ready to go east and to please "send it at your convenience." Turnbo again complained of ill health, a lung ailment, and that he did not expect to live long.

On May 13, 1913, Connelley sent a money order for \$27.50 with the "understanding that the manuscripts are to be mine from this date....they will have to be re-written to put them in shape for publication and I have already spent about \$250. in having them copied on a typewriter and have not got them all copied yet." A week later Silas acknowledged the receipt of the money order: "Yes, all of the manuscripts I have sent to you is yours. I have no claim on it now. I was glad to get the money." And in what appears to be Turnbo's last attempt in promotion with Connelley, he enclosed more newspaper testimonials of praise for his stories including a lengthy transcription of a favorable review in the *Kansas City Star* by Rollins Bingham.

The last piece of paper in this historic correspondence between Connelley and Turnbo is an unsigned, undated one that says simply, "The Turnbo Manuscripts. Their purchase by William E. Connelley. they are now mine - all of them."

During the 1920s Connelley, for a time, advertised a dozen of his largest collections for sale; included were the Turnbo Papers. Connelley wrote, "Mr. Turnbo wrote for me hundreds of accounts of the Ozark Mountain region...these papers could not be replaced or re-written by anyone now living."

The next glimpse of Silas comes in 1921 when he traveled by train from a daughter's house in Oklahoma to Branson, Missouri. He disembarked in western Taney County and began walking east toward the homes of kith and kin in eastern Taney and western Ozark

counties. This was one of many unannounced periodic appearances that Silas made around his neighborhoods. Elderly Ozarkers remember him in their youth coming down country roads with a walking stick and a red handkerchief that contained his personal belongings.

A STRANGE IDIOSYNCRASY

Some Turnbo relatives thought Silas was cursed with a strange idiosyncrasy - he never really worked in his later years, just mused about old times before the Civil War; later, some descendants thought anyone who ascribed importance to Silas' writings must be a damn fool.

Silas, however, "knew who would treat him friendly," and always found a welcome hand at the John and Fanny Brightwell home; Fanny was distant kin to Silas through his mother's Holt family. The Brightwell farm lay across the high bluffs and table land in southeast Taney County bordered on the south by White River. As usual Silas came to stay a week. A family always saw him coming in the distance, kicking up small clouds of summer dust on the country road. Mrs. Brightwell then sent her children upstairs to prepare for Silas' first duty - a bath and clean clothes.

Fanny assigned her young boys to provide company and transportation for "Uncle Clabe" during his stay. The youths led an old horse while Silas rode around the White River country. Hillary Brightwell [born 1912], John and Fanny's youngest and seventh son, remembers taking Silas to all the highest promontories in the neighborhood where he would dismount and sit for two or three hours gazing over the land, sometimes recording pages of notes. After several days both Hillary and Silas mounted horses and under escort, Silas struck out for old friends on Big Creek; Hillary returned home with both horses.

Silas spent another short term in the Confederate Home in fall 1923, but lived his last days in Oklahoma still making notes, according to family tradition; he died at age eighty and was buried in Park Cemetery, Broken Arrow, in March 1925 where Matilda preceded him in 1922. Whatever became of Silas notes and/or writings that he made after the sale to Connelley in 1913 is unknown.

William Connelley . . . died in 1930 and his widow advertised an estate sale that was widely

attended by collectors and book dealers. Connelley had acquired and deposited numerous items with the Kansas Historical Society, but he retained a considerable personal collection - one of which was the Turnbo Papers.

At the Connelley sale unknown purchasers acquired separately portions of the Turnbo Papers including Turnbo's handwritten collection of stories and the Connelley-Turnbo correspondence; Turnbo's handwritten 27th Arkansas Infantry history; a typed transcribed copy of the stories and of the regimental history; and the typed carbon copies of his stories and regimental history. The handwritten writings of Silas' stories ultimately became the property of the H. M. Sender Book Shop, Kansas City.

[To be concluded in Volume 19 No. 4]

-Editor: :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."

BOOKS ARE RECEIVED FOR SOCIETY' GENEALOGY LIBRARY

A start has been made to the book collection planned for the Gassville Hospital Museum. New books have been donated to the Society:

"*The Willetts of North America*" 2 volumes donated by Albert James Willett, Jr.

"*Some Ancestors of Pearl Griggs Hamm*" Part I - Colonial New England Lineage's" compiled by Kathy Kamm Jones and Donald E. Jones. Presented by life member Kathy Jones, in honor of the Perrin-Wheaton Chapter NSDAR, Wheaton Illinois. [Ed: Note - After reading the book, President Margy Garr discovered she was a distant cousin of Kathy.]

"*Grandpa fought on Three Sides*" by member Virgil N. Arrowood.

The Society is grateful for the generous donations of these family histories that many of our citizens can benefit from. If you have a book to donate write to Margie Garr [address on first page

ROLLINS HOSPITAL ITEMS

On December 1992, the Baxter County Historical Society completed negotiations and purchased the Gassville Hospital Building. The hospital was started by Dr. Rollins in 1926, and was the only hospital between Harrison and Batesville, Arkansas.

When researching The Baxter Bulletin during the period of Dr. Rollin's ownership of the hospital, several interesting and informative articles were found by our president Margie Garr, and some are included on this page and through out the quarterly

NEW DOCTOR JOINS ROLLINS HOSPITAL STAFF

(From the Baxter Bulletin January 6 1939 Issue)

Dr. John F. Guenther, formerly of Chicago, has been appointed to the staff of the Rollins Hospital and opened an office in the hospital on January 1st. Dr. Guenther has 10 years of medical and surgical work. He was associated with Dr. J. H. Breakstone of Chicago, in Surgery, after serving his internship at West End Hospital. He took observation work in Cook County Hospital. For the following five years he was resident surgeon in Washington Park Hospital and in Rogers Park Hospital in Chicago. He has been practicing medicine in Little Rock for the past one and one half years. Dr. Guenther will make his home in Cotter.

DR. GUENTHER

(From the Baxter Bulletin April 7 1939 Issue)

This a story about a chap who left part of his scalp at the scene of a car wreck, but got it back and is wearing it naturally. All of the foresight of a doctor - Doctor Guenther; now on the Rollins Hospital staff, formerly of Rogers Park Hospital, Chicago. One night when he examined the victim of a a car crash, he discovered that part of the scalp was missing. He sent the policeman, who had escorted the victim in, back to look for it. He came back with a piece of bloody hair and skin about nine inches square. Dr. Guenther washed it and sewed it back in place. The guy gets just as much satisfaction now in scratching this side of his head as he does the other.

ROLLINS HOSPITAL TO BE ENLARGED

(From The Baxter Bulletin February 24 1939)

Work on the new addition to the hospital at Gassville will start this week, and when completed, the hospital will have facilities for taking care of fifty patients at one time. Two years ago improvements were made at this institution which made it one of the most modern hospitals in this section of the state.

The hospital building is 105 x 80 feet. One room at the east end has been used for business purposes and the new work that will be done will convert this into hospital uses. 15 new rooms will be built in this section and a new hospital laundry will be installed which will give the institution every modern convenience. Each of the new rooms will be steam heated from the plant now in operation. Dr. Rollins has purchased the lot west of the building and an ambulance drive and side entrance will be built on this side of the building. Two years ago the hospital was enlarged and modern equipment was installed and during these two years, it has outgrown it's capacity which makes the new improvements necessary. When they are completed the building will have 37 rooms which, with it's several wards will take care of 50 patients.

WERE YOU BORN IN THE ROLLINS HOSPITAL?

Were you, or some one you know, born at the Gassville Rollins Hospital? Let President Margie Garr know. We are preparing a listing of the births at the hospital. Be sure to include who the attending doctor was.

WILD TURKEY STORY

(from Baxter Bullin April 7 1939 Issue)

Forgetting his turkey gobbler caller nearly cost Dr. Mooney a gobbler several years ago. He arrived in the woods at daylight and discovered he had forgot his cedar turkey caller. He thought of everything he could use as a caller, gave it up and started home when he thought of his upper plate. He removed it from his mouth and raked his knife across it a couple of times. "Kelp! Kelp! Kelp!" It went like a wild turkey hen. He called several times, got an answer from a gobbler over across the hollow, laid low quite a while and the big bird finally got within gun shot. Doc didn't forget to shoot and got the bird. Some dog-gone newspaper correspondent sent this story out and it went almost around the world. The collection of letters about it would paper a room.

A 1862 LETTER

Mrs. Lucy C. "Griffin" Arnold-Berg of Old Joe sends the following letter from her grandfather J. A. Melton written in 1862. Mr. Melton was quite a figure in this section in the early days. He did not live to get home from the war but died in a military prison in Atlanta, Georgia. The Dick Melton he speaks of was his brother. He was later a soldier in the Civil War and the first Worshipful Master of the F & A. M. lodge in Marshall in Searcy County. Mr. Berg's grandfather R. D. Griffin was the first man to be made a Mason at the Marshall lodge. Mrs. Berg states that she has been told that her grandfather has descendants in Alabama, Texas, Oklahoma, California and Arkansas. She says she herself has 3 great grandchildren and 29 grandchildren and if the rest of Mr. Melton's grandchildren had done as well as she has, he has plenty of descendants. Her maiden name was Lucy C. Griffin. The letter from her grandfather to his wife follows:

Headquarters,
April 21 1862
Little Rock Arkansas

Dear Wife,
I again seat myself to write you a few lines to let you know I am well and I hope that these lines

find you enjoying the same and great blessing. I received your letter and was glad to hear that you are able to be up. I have suffered much from uneasiness since I had heard from you. I want you to take better care of yourself. If you get bad off send for a good doctor in time. I sent you a few lines the other day and wrote that we were going to take leave, but we will take water here, I reckon, in a day or two, and sail for Memphis. I hate to go any farther from you and the children but we are order there and maybe it is the best. If I am permitted to live until my time is out and I will try to get home as soon as I can. I think if I could see you and the children it would be a great satisfaction. I study sometimes about the satisfaction I have seen and where I am now it distresses me very much. I reckon the children begin to think I will never come home again. Tell them Pap is in hopes that he can get to see them again. Tell them that Pap wants them to be good children. You wrote to me that Dick had swapped off the horse. I am sorry he done that cause he will make a fine horse some day.. I had rather he had kept him. I want him, if he hasn't got your mare, to get her and I will send a note back. You said you wanted to know if I had got my clothing. I have and Jackson is discharged. I will send some of them home. I don't want to tote them. We have not drawn our pay yet. If I don't get it to send home by Jackson, I don't know whether I will draw it until my time is out. If Wilson was here now, he could pay us up and I could send it home. Some of our officers is doing very bad. I think that all the people should turn them out than to be made slaves of.

April 23, Jackson is coming home. I want to come home very bad. I want you to write me as often as you can see a chance to send it to me. Don't fail, we might not leave the state. In fact I do not know one day what we will do yet. If I get my money and see a safe chance to send it home I will send it to you. I want you to have all the money I can make and do the best you can do with it.

You never said whether Stimson paid you or not. I will write you as often as I can. Bacon is 25 cents per pound. When you are eating milk think of me. Take care of you self and do the best you can. I must close. I hope God will take care of us until we meet again..

From J. L. Melton

**"How to find them!"
NATIVE AMERICAN RESEARCH
HELP**

If you are researching Cherokee ancestry, you might wish to consult a collection at the McCain Library, University of Southern Mississippi, Hattisburg, MS. Betty Drake, Genealogy Librarian, herself descended from a Georgia Cherokee, is putting together an important archive on the Cherokee. Contact Dr. Drake at Southern Station, Box 5148, Hattisburg, MS 39403

**

Hunter Memorial Library has microfilm copies of 10,000 Cherokee Indian documents from Archives of Mexico, Spain, France, Canada and England. The records are available on Inter-library loan. Write Hunter Memorial Library, Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, NC 18723

**

Whites who married Indians were not listed on the US census records if the marriages took place in Illinois, Arkansas or Missouri before 1880. They were considered part of the Indian nation into which they married. Starting in 1906, all Indians had to fill out a claim that asked for children's names, parents, grandparents, birth/death dates, places of residence and birth, English and Indian name

**

Whites among the Cherokee, a book by Mary Bondurant Warren, also editor of *Family Puzzlers* (weekly genealogy publication) is an excellent resource for Native American research. Write Mrs. Warren, PO Box 7776, Athens, GA. 30604-7776

--Thanks to "The Family Tree"/The Ellen Payne Odom Genealogy Library."

**"The only thing new in the world
is the history you don't know**

-- Harry S. Truman

**START YOUR FAMILY
STORY PROJECT NOW**

Don't hesitate to undertake a family history project because you think there are no great accomplishments in your or your family's life. If there are none that you can recall, that just puts you in the same category as more than ninety-nine percent of your fellow man. More importantly, your descendants won't care whether or not you walked on the moon. They will just want to know about you and your family. So get started.

In spite of the time, effort and even difficulties involved, writing your family story is a rewarding undertaking. Not only will you feel good about it, but in another fifty or a hundred years or more, your descendants will be most appreciative of your telling them about the current generation.

When you have written your family story, please consider sharing it with our Society. Don't worry about writing style, etc. We can help.

KING OF AMERICA?

In 1786, our Founding Fathers decided that the country needed a king. Remember, that was the kind of government they had always been used to.

In those days, the custom was, when you needed a king but did not have a royal family of your own, was to go searching among available princes elsewhere.

Baron von Steuben, the Revolutionary War hero from Prussia, who was George Washington's drillmaster at Valley Forge, suggested Prince Henry of Prussia, brother of King Frederick the Great.

James Monroe and Alexander Hamilton headed a committee who wrote Prince Henry and offered him the crown. Although he said he found the invitation intriguing, Prince Henry could not decide if he wanted to live among the strange and savage Americans. He took so long to make up his mind that the Colonists decided against a king and chose to have a president instead.

FARM SAYING
by President Clinton

President Clinton in June was queried by a White House press conference about derogatory remarks made by an Air Force General concerning the president.

The President's response was that "the general didn't know the president from "Adam's Off Ox" Most of the reporters would have known the expression "He doesn't know me from Adam" but the part about the ox threw them for a loop.

This is a very old farm saying which dates back to the days when farmers plowed his fields with a team of oxen. The farmer always walked along the side of the oxen and got to know the lead oxen along his side very well. The "Off Ox" or the one next to the lead ox, was not so well known to the farmer. Hence the "Odd Ox" remark by the President.

Many other sayings have originated from the farm. "Clean his Plow" may be one the General might hear yet. Or "break him from sucking eggs" may also be used. (That was used around the barn yard and usually meant that the raccoon sucking the eggs would end up getting shot!. The President just might direct the general to "high-tail it out of here" an expression that stems from when a baby calf is running, it tail is almost always sticking straight up.

We probably can expect to hear more of these type expressions from Washington, such as when the President doesn't get a bill passed or something that he wants, a saying straight from the sow barn may be used. He may be told an earthy expression that stems from the fact that the milk faucet located farthest to the rear contains the least milk. "Sucking the hind teat" which in farm talk simply means the president may be out of luck.

When things are going well, we probably can expect to hear "Make hay while the sun shines". That is, after all the newcomers have learned the old chicken yard phrase, "learning the pecking order." which was the sequence of pecking establishing exactly who had the power.

-adopted from Lee Schuster's column in the St. Joseph, MO. News-Press June 27 1993.

BAXTER COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
PLANS HOSPITAL MUSEUM

The historic Gassville Rollins Hospital Building (also known as Gilbert Building) at Gassville, located just east of the post office, is to be renovated by the Baxter County Historical Society and interested persons.

The Gassville Hospital, or Rollins Hospital as it was known for many years, was the only hospital, between Harrison and Batesville, in Baxter County for many years. Many of our county's citizens began life or had some other necessary medical procedure in this building..

The Building has served several masters in its history. The last owner was the Resolution Trust Corporation [RTC], who was the receiver of the property when the Arkansas Federal Saving Bank became the property of the RTC. The Society acquired ownership of the property after tendering the successful bid for the purchase of the property. Funds to purchase the hospital was donated by Dr. Rollins's two Grandsons, Bill and Jim Rollins.

The Hospital was operated for many years by Dr. W. J. Rollins, who began his practice in the building about 1926. Previous to that he was in a building across the street. As the hospital developed, it boasted of owning it's own ambulance, laundry and kitchen. It also had it's own pharmacy. It had 25 rooms and was known as the most modern hospital anywhere at that time. The hospital also had an insurance plan, which was many years ahead of it time.

Dr. Rollins was born February 9, 1893 in Clanton, Alabama, [per the obituary] the son of Elijah [1856-1916] and Necie [Oats] Rollins. He attended school in Oklahoma and eventually went to and graduated from the St. Louis Medical School at St. Louis, Missouri. He was married to Miss Ada Marie Russell on December 24, 1910. He had a son James Rollins, who was postmaster at Cotter. He also had three grandchildren; James Austin Rollins, Bill Rollins and Jim Rollins Jr. Dr. Rollins was buried in the Cotter Cemetery.

Blanche Dry was the head nurse for years and when Dr. Rollin's wife would come into the hospital, Mrs. Dry would start singing "Onward Christian Soldiers". This was the signal for Dr. Rollins to put away the moonshine, which he

had taken as payments. Mrs. Rollins was a teetotaler!

Dr. Rollins charged \$2.00 a visit, however, he was paid many times by produce and meat from his patients. He constructed a smoke house to be able to take care of the hams and chickens he took as his fee.

When Dr. Rollins found his business was going well, he decided he needed help. He journeyed to Chicago where he found Dr. J. F. Guentner. Dr. Guentner was a surgeon who had served his internship in Cook County Hospital. After offering Dr. Guentner a salary of \$200.00 a month, [as he was only making \$100. a month], Dr. Guentner agreed to come to Gassville for one year. Dr. Guentner drove his big Buick to Gassville from Chicago. He soon decided to sell the Buick due to the poor roads in the area. Dr. Guentner was the only surgeon in a 40 mile radius of Mountain Home.

Dr. Guentner and Dr. Rollins made an excellent team, treating all who came to the hospital. This included people like the Barkers and other outlaws, sometimes at gun point.

It has been reported that Dr. Rollins reattached a man's arm after a farm accident. His relatives had preserved the arm in a bucket of spring water.

Dr. Rollins often rode horseback to serve his patients, as the roads were very limited in the area. He later owned a Ford Model T, and also a fancy Terroplane car.

Dr. Rollins was known to be a maniac driver. Grandson Bill Rollins relates an incident where Dr. Rollins went to Three Brothers to bring back to the hospital, a woman who was in bad shape with "locked bowels", which was at that time a very serious malady. While driving back to the hospital, he lost control of his car on a low water bridge on route 126, and careened down the creek bed. When he stopped, he turned to the woman and said "Mrs. _ _ _ , if that didn't loosen you up, I can't help you.

Dr. Rollins sold the hospital in 1944 to Dr. Guentner who operated the hospital until he sold it in 1950 to Dr. J. A. Van Beber. Dr. Guentner while serving his internship in the Cook Co. Hospital in Chicago, had the dubious honor of treating John Dillinger's "Lady In Red".

When Dr. Rollins retired he moved to Cotter but soon opened an office there and practiced until his death in Cotter on January 4, 1957. [per obituary]

Dr. Rollins, Dr. Guentner and Blanche Dry were very special people. Many people today remember them fondly.

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The acquisition of the Hospital property presents an opportunity for the Society and the county citizens of Baxter County to provide a repository for the many artifacts of Baxter County. The first phase is planned to provide facilities to house a medical museum. This will contain the many pieces of equipment of the original hospital now in storage in various places, as well as other medical relics. Many suggestions have been made for the balance of the building, such as a History Museum for Baxter County, proper storage areas to preserve valuable documents of significance to Baxter County, a meeting place for many citizen groups, leasing of certain areas to others. etc.

A committee has been formed to formulate policy, raise funds, etc. Dr. J. F. Guentner, former owner of the Hospital, is the Honorary Chairman of the Committee. Charles Blackburn of the Society will be the chairman for the Society. The structure will require extensive repairs and remodeling for the planned facility. Donations are being solicited to bring the structure into good repair. The Society has joined with the Mountain Home Chamber Foundation to provide the necessary finance accountability for the donations. Tax Deductible donations will be accepted by the Chamber Foundation at:

The Mountain Home Chamber of
Commerce's Visitor Center at
1023 Hwy 62E.
Mountain Home, AR. 72653

Checks should be marked "Hospital Fund"

Input from all citizens of the area is solicited and will be considered as decisions are made for building's future use.

The Society is optimistic that the Hospital Building can again serve the citizens of Baxter County and that one more item of our area's history can be retained.

*Dont forget to furnish your family
pedigree chart and family group
sheet for our ancestor book!*

BAXTER COUNTY HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

WESLEY'S CHAPEL
IT'S BEGINNING

By J. S. Norman, Springfield, Missouri
(From The Baxter Bulletin, February 3 1939)

It seems there has been a high moral sentiment in the Wesley's Chapel community since the earliest pioneer days There was two local Methodist ministers-Cullen Moody and Jack Dean There were also "Uncle Durf" Talley and several faithful souls Living in this community for several years prior To the beginning of the Civil War as well as other influences To which credit should be given for the existence of Wesley's Chapel.

The old camp meeting, which ran some ten years prior to the Civil War, Which was discontinued at the beginning of the bloody struggle Was probably an important factor in creating this great Religious settlement which characterizes this great community to this day. The Haley Sanford home, now occupied by Will Hickman and family, Is located on the exact spot of the Old Camp Ground and I attended this meeting when I was less than half a dozen years old.

Oh, How I wish I could witness such revival as they existed then. Later on at the old Wesley's Chapel Church, I was standing By the late Jimmy Lonon, when he arose from the "mourner's bench" Shouting the praises of God.

I also witnessed many other such feats of religious activities at The Old Wesley's Chapel Church.

When our family returned to our old home on January 3 1870 There was a church at a nearby vacant residence.

Reverend Van B. Tate was the pastor. He was medium sized Man with red hair, blue eyes and a ruddy complexion, But, O, how he could preach. The same year the neighbors Built a "Brush Arbor" on the same location and The vacant residence was abandoned.

Later a large hewed log church was erected.

I put my membership in at Wesley's Chapel in September 1870. Reverend Tate was the pastor. My present pastor is Reverend Gardner He is my thirty sixth pastor.

When I located in Springfield over 30 years ago I had hunted for a church of the type like Wesley's Chapel I steered clear of the "vested choir" who makes a noise Like a lot of screech owls which they call "singing" Why, I would rather hear Deal Sorrels sing "How Firm A Foundation" Than to hear any church orchestra or Suosa's Band

**COURT TO HEAR BIG FLAT
PETITION FOR INCORPORATION
HISTORY OF BIG FLAT TOLD**
(from the Baxter Bulletin February 3 1939 Issue)

A hearing will be heard in County Court on Friday, February 3, on the petition of citizens of Big Flat to incorporate their town. If the petition is granted, Big Flat will be Baxter County's fifth incorporated town. Big Flat is one of the oldest and well known settlements and is today one of the County's most interesting places. It is in the heart of the Ozark National Forest and several of the forest offices are situated there as well as schools, churches, and mercantile establishments, one restaurant, one garage, one hotel, two grist mills, blacksmith shop and an amusement hall.

The following history of Big Flat was written by A. S. Kelley, Big Flat merchant:

The first store or mercantile establishment in Big Flat was built about the year 1868 or 70 by a rugged farmer named Lewis Wallis and the store building was made of log and quite small in size. He soon associated with him in the grocery business another old brawny farmer named McElroy. They brought up country produce: Chickens, eggs and wild roots in summer season and winter furs, deer hams or saddles (as they were called then) and deer skins (called Pelke) deer meat and bear hides together with beef hides. They would make regular trips from there to what was called then "Mouth of Sylamore" which is at the mouth of Sylamore Creek where it empties into the White River and where Allison Post Office now stands, 22 miles east of Big Flat. There Old Bill Aiken, a pioneer merchant had a large mercantile store for that day, receiving his merchandise by steam boat from New Orleans, Louisiana. He would buy Wallis and McElroy's produce, swapping them supplies such as salt, leather, dye stuffs, coffee and brown sugar. These merchants hauled their stuff by team and old time wagons called "tar-pole". For spindle and wheels lubrication, they used pine tar.

The next store put up here was by Dr. W. B. Black, a practicing physician about the year 1875. He continued a few years carrying on his medical practice with other business, but sold out to a man coming here from Springfield, Missouri, named Theo Ober. Ober continued a

few years but failed in business, leaving the town one night.

Charles H. Herr Dry Goods Company, who furnished Ober with much of his goods, sent a man by the name of J. E. Bell, from Springfield, Missouri, here to wind up his business. Bell took matters in charge, successfully winding up and collecting outstanding accounts and carried on for his own for a number of years and died here.

About the year 1878 or 1879, John T. Baker built a new store house and embarked in the mercantile business several years, making a success of it. He was the first post master here. The mail was carried by horse back from Mountain Home by Lone Rock and Crossroads. Our mail left the railroads at West Plains, Missouri.

Isaac Rose erected and run the first cotton gin and grist mill in Big Flat, built about the year 1870.

About the year 1882 to 1885, T. J. (Jeff) Baker and G. W. (George) Mabrey formed a partnership in the general mercantile business here and continued a very successful term of about 20 years. They sold out and then moved to Okmulgee, Oklahoma, entering the same business there.

A typical old water mill is situated five miles west of Big Flat on Cedar Creek known as "the John Rose Old Mill" The Mill was first built about the year 1850 or 1855 probably by a man by the name of Jim Brown, and after that passed through the hands of Amos Holt and Mr. Middleton and was used by some of the older set of the Rose Family. About the year 1887, John Rose acquired the site and rebuilt new housing and installed up to date machinery. Grinding corn and wheat which was patronized by almost the whole country for a circle of 10 to 15 miles distant. Most everybody said that the meal ground on this mill is not "het up" and killed like it is that is ground on steam propelled machinery. (And this good old water ground meal is still better.

**TALBURT/LEONARD CABIN
ERECTION CONTINUES;**

After 4 of the 5 work days erecting the cabin, has been rained out, the cabin project is progressing. Hopefully the logs will all be up soon.

MY FIRST SCHOOL DAYS

*BY J. F. NORMAN,
SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI*

[From December 2 1938 Issue Baxter Bulletin]

80 years ago when I was 4 years old I spent my first school days near the vicinity where Buford, Arkansas, is now located. My father was the teacher. The school house was located on the road a half or a mile west of the old Stratton Homestead. It was a crude log house about 16 foot square. The logs were rough cut from the forest in which it stood. Not a single crack between the logs had ever been closed. The roof was boards that were split from the largest trees in the forest. No floor, just the naked ground with the grass and weeds cut. The seats were made of logs cut from the forest, split open and four legs put in on the round side of the log, with the split flat side up upon which the people sat. These seats were strung around the sides of the school house. The rough logs serving as backs. The wild green grass grew all around the ground forming a carpet. The yard was covered by native oak trees. No underbrush like we have today. This school house was heated, after the frosty days had come, by a campfire that was build right in the middle of the house on the ground. When the air was still the pupils were quite comfortable, but if the wind was blowing, the pupils were forced to seek refuge to the side of the house which was clear of smoke.

My father, with his family, lived on the old Norman homestead now occupied by Ross Hickman and family. My father moved to this old home about the year 1853. It is located about a mile west of the present site of Mountain Home. The school was located about 5 miles due south from my father's home. While he was teaching, he rode the old family mare "Diamond" back and forth and to and from school. He put a hugh sheep skin under his saddle allowing it to project back enough for a seat for the humble writer. When I got on the sheep skin, with my tiny arms clinched around Dad's waist, I felt as secure as if I had been in an air conditioned Missouri Pacific coach.

There were very few roads over the country at that time, but Dad knew the country like a crow and we took a straight course across the country to school regardless of the roads. We did not pass a single plantation on the way but

we often ran into a bunch of deer with one to two dozen in the gang. When we would arrive at school the big boys would see who could reach us first to take me down, remove my father's saddle and put the hobbler on the mare front feet so she could not run away and then turn her loose on the commons. I only recall three of the patrons, the principal one being Sid Stratton who sent several children. The oldest was Mary Ann, who is the grandmother of our esteemed townsmen T. E. Robertson. She was in her teens, the youngest was Harrison, he was about 5 or 6 years old. Then there was Lizzie, Toad and Jim in between. Another patron was John Morgan. He sent two children. Martha and George. Martha was in her teens and George was about eight years old. Another patron was Isaac Jones. He sent three boys; Will, Dand, and Jason. Of course I was too young to attend school but my father said he wanted me to be a smart man. I knew one letter in the alphabet and that was "O" because it looked like an English P. The English Champion was my favorite dish. I am writing this story from memory. It is correct in the best of my ability. The picture is as clear in my mind as if it took place yesterday. Believe it or not, as Ripley says, I recalled that the Jones boys had bear meat in the noon day lunch. This kind of meat was of course, uncommon, but the neighbors had killed one as it straggled through the woods.

CLARK COUNTY, ARKANSAS PUBLISHES HISTORY

The Clark County Historical Association now has its new history book "Clark County, Arkansas: Past and Present" for sale. The hardbound book of 857 pages is priced at \$45.00 each. Checks for the book should be addressed to: Clark County Historical Association
PO Box 516
Arkadelphia, AR 71923

Do you have an old article or story for the "History" Quarterly? We want IT! If you enjoy reading about early Baxter County, share your story or article with the rest of the readers. Just mail it to the Editor. It will be returned if you wish.

PICTURE PAGE
Photos by Carl Rodon
Society Photographer
(lower right by Gene Garr)



*Virginia Hurst, Mountain Home's
Pioneer Telephone Company owner,
Talks to Society*



*Talbert/Leonard Cabin
logs being sorted for
installation in Cooper Park*



*Members enjoying social hour
after Society meeting*



*Eight Grade Students study
Social Studies at Casey House*

first class

BAXTER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Stella Jackson, Treasurer
Rte 2 Box 116
Mountain Home, AR 72653



*History is the Foundation for The Future.
Enlist another member for our Society.
Keep the Future Bright!*

FIRST CLASS