

Baxter County ^{\$3.00} History



The Historic Home of Col. Randolph D. Casey
Built 1858
Mountain Home, Baxter County, Arkansas

*DARK DAYS
IN BAXTER COUNTY:
THE 1893 WILSON MURDER
&
THE 1869 BENNETT BAYOU
MURDER*

*VOLUME 23 NO. 1
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Membership rate is \$10.00 per member, \$12.50 Member and Spouse.

Membership year is January 1 to December 31

Members joining during the year will receive all back issues for the year.

Send dues to Treasurer Stella Jackson,

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

Contributions of material for the "History" are always urgently needed
and should be sent to the Editor.

The Society or the Editor does not assume responsibility
for statements made by contributors

The Society meets every fourth Tuesday of the month at the Baxter County
Day Service Center, at 16th (Rossie Rd) & 16th St. in Mountain Home.

NOTE: Phone Area Code in Mountain Home area has been changed to 870

THE WORLD WAR II AND THE NORFORK LAKE MYSTERY

By Mary Ann Mussick

Perhaps the following story should be called a legend, for at this late day I can not verify or disqualify the events. But is based on facts, as I heard them as a child, and as I remember it these many years later. I am convinced that something did happen over the then forming waters of Lake Norfolk, over 50 years ago.

To fully understand my feelings about this story, you have to know the feelings of the country and of my family during the early years of World War II. We lived in fear that we would be attacked by either the Germans or the Japanese, or both. Why? Why, Baxter County is located just about as far inland from either coast as any in the Nation? Because of Norfolk Dam. When construction first started, the dam site was the favorite sightseeing spot on Sunday afternoons for the whole county. Week by week we watched the wonderful work, hustle and bustle going on before our eyes. December 7, 1941 came, and the dam site was closed to all but authorized personnel, because of the fear of sabotage. Because it was a wartime priority (the dam would provide power for war plants) construction proceeded around the clock. Giant lights, proudly lent by a Hollywood movie studio, lighted the area at night. Armed guards were posted at all entries, a high barbed wire fence encircled the area and twelve armed guards patrolled the perimeter around the clock. There was a small airfield near the base of the dam and some anti-aircraft artillery guns were mounted there.

In 1943 my daddy was teaching school at Hand, Arkansas, across the then forming waters of Lake Norfolk. He had tried without success to volunteer for military service but was turned down repeatedly because of a heart condition. To do his part, for the war effort, he returned to teaching school thus releasing another for military services. Because of the gas and tire rationing, he came home only on weekends. He had about twenty students so he curtained off a part of the schoolhouse for his living quarters. One morning he was awakened by a strange sound. He thought he wasn't

completely awake because he heard a drum being struck, over and over, almost like a gong. He hastily dressed and stepped outside. The schoolhouse set a few yards back from the lake and behold, there on the shore was gathered a large group of military and Corps of Engineer Officers. Out on the lake were two flat boats. In one was a very small man, with a very big drum, which he beat with a big drum stick. Pom! Pom! Pom! Over and over as the boat slowly moved from spot to spot. In the other boat an old lady was throwing loaves of bread overboard to float in the water.

A very perplexed schoolteacher approached the officers and wanted to know what was going on. "None of your d___ business", the lowest ranking officer replied. He probably started to say - get back in the house and don't stick your head out again - but nobody ever talked to Herbert Messick in those tones.

"Well, I'm making it my business", Daddy informed the officer, "I'm the teacher here and my students will be arriving soon and I think I ought to know what's going on."

By then the highest ranking officer had walked over to Daddy and he agreed that the teacher should know what to tell the students. "But I must swear you and your students to secrecy. This is matter of vital interest to the war effort and the citizens of this county must not be unduly alarmed." My Daddy agreed and it was only years after the war that he told me the following story:

"The night before an unidentified aircraft was flying near the construction area of Norfolk Dam. The plane kept coming, closer and closer. Security personnel kept warning the plane that it was nearing a restricted area. But the plane kept coming ever nearer. They repeatedly asked the plane to identify itself but was only silence from the approaching aircraft. Finally they warned the plane that it would be shot down if it's course wasn't changed. The plane kept coming. The artillery guns fired and the plane was hit. With a trail of smoke and fire, it plunged into the lake. There was never any sound from the plane's radio."

The next morning at daybreak, the search began. Army officers and Corp personnel organized the search. They recruited the help of several "old-timers" in the Hand area. In the absence of depth finders (they were still to be invented) they were employing the time honored methods of the homefolks. A drum beat is supposed to cause a drowning victim to float to the surface. A loaf of bread cast upon the waters will stop floating over a body. The drums beat and the bread floated all day, while divers with their gear waited in a boat nearby. All to no avail.

To my knowledge the plane or its pilot were never located. Years later I tried to learn the true facts about what happened above the waters of Lake Norfolk in 1943. I was told by a Corp official that there were no guns at Norfolk Dam with the capability to shoot down a plane. However, at one time training flights from the Air base at Walnut Ridge, Arkansas, just to the east, came directly over the dam area. This made dam officials jittery so the training flight path was changed. To date, I have received no information from military sources.

Once one other person that I know of outside of the Hand area knew about this incidence. Dr. Leon Mooney at Mountain Home, was told about it by one of his patients and I believe Daddy and "Uncle Doc" discussed it. Both are now dead and gone as are so many others who were adults at the time of this happening.

Who lies in a watery grave in the depths of Lake Norfolk near Hand Cove? Is the symbol of the Rising Sun forever dulled by years and years of silt and crustacean at the bottom of the lake? Did a German pilot die, silently, so far from home? Did a proud American couple mourn for a son whose body was never recovered, under circumstances they never fully understood?

Perhaps, only God knows.

— Mary Ann Messick is now our special correspondent and now writes stories about the County for the "History" Mary Ann is a native of the area, a descendant of a Baxter County Pioneer family. She is a member of the Baxter County Historical Society and a well known historian and gifted story writer of the County's history, having authored "The Baxter County History". She also had served as Editor of the Society's "History" in 1977. Watch for more Early Baxter County stories from Mary Ann.

GENEALOGY QUERIES

Members queries will be accepted for publication in the "History". All queries should have a connection to Baxter County or the surrounding area. Queries should be brief and include, when known, dates, locations, county, major cities and states, births, marriages, deaths and residence. All queries are subject to editing. Send queries to the Editor's address located on the inside cover.

Barbara Carter Whisenant, 18 Autumn Oak Drive, Austin TX 78738-1409

Anglin-Hogan genealogy and family history needed from Baxter and Marion County area. Want to exchange information and make contact with ancestors and descendants.

Hazel (Dent) Ballard, 314 1st Street, Mountain Home, AR 17663:

I need help on the **Worth** surname. They were connected to my **Johnson** family in early IZARD and Marion Counties — **Spencer Worth Johnson** in 1830 in IZARD County. There was also a **John Worth Gray** in Independence County.

Cora Taylor Burton, PO Box 316, Trinidad, TX 75163:

J. R. Smith married **Mary "Betty Elizabeth Taylor** on 12 July 1890 in Mountain Home, AR. She born 12 January 1864 in Union Twp, Baxter County, dau of **Jesse and Charlotte Mae "Lottie" (Green? or Maulder?) Taylor**, died Feb 1913. I need info! Did they have children? When and where did they die and where are they buried?

Thelma Stobaugh, Route 4, Box 383, Gatesville, TX 76528-9313:

Seeking descendants of **Thelma Haley** and/or **Susan Haley**. My g-g Grandmother **Rebecca Haley Painter** was a resident of Rapps Barren, Marion County, AR (now Baxter County) on the 1862 census.

LaDeen Loveless, Rt 1, Tecumseh, OK, 74873:

Wanted: Baxter County History Book and information of **William Brewer**, b-7 Aug 1861 and wife **Sarah Frances Earls** b-11 May 1862, both in Baxter County, AR. William's parents were **John Brewer**, b-15 May 1839, d-20 Jan 1863 Marion Co. AR, married **Elizabeth Gardener** (she b-8 July 1932) in Baxter County in 1860. After John's death, Eliz married **Bazzill Kimbell**. When, What did John die of and more???

Diana Canadas, 16491 Ridge Crst Ct.,
Middletown, CA 95461:

John Lee Martin, b-January 1863 in
North Fork, Baxter County, AR, m-Georgan
Morton abt 1890 in Baxter Co. His father
was born abt 1835 in TN and died about
1900 in North Fork, Baxter Co. What was
his father's first name? Who was Georgan's
father?

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QUERY COLUMN

The Sunday Edition of the Springfield
News-Leader, printed in Springfield, Mo.
has a genealogy column.

To have your query published in their
Sunday Edition, send query to

Gloria Gogart Carter
733 S. Farm Rd 89
Springfield, MO 65802-9525

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How to find them!

LDS PASSENGER MANIFESTS: A GUIDE TO USING THE PASSENGER LISTS AT YOUR LOCAL FAMILY HISTORY CENTERS (LDS)

By Janice Grippo

STEP 1, Determine the Soundex Code
for the name you are researching.

STEP 2. At the LDS Family History
Library (FHL) use the National Archives
(Microfiche) to find the "Port of Entry" you
think your ancestor used to enter the US -
(For example - Microfiche 0691 contains the
port of New York. The bad news is that the
years from 1847 to 1896 for the port of New
York was not indexed. You must have the
exact date of the ship arrivals to find them.

Step 3, On that microfiche you will find a
listing of Soundex Codes and the
corresponding FHL film numbers, the staff
members in the FHL will be happy to show
you how. Be sure to check the first names
next to the soundex code. Many films are
divided by first names on to two rolls of film.
Be sure and order the right one. It is
important to remember that at this point you
are only ordering a copy of the index, not
the passenger manifests themselves.

Step 4, When the film arrives, you will
find that it consists entirely of many index
cards, sorted in the Soundex numerical

order. There are usually 2 rolls of cards on
the film, side by side. Locate the cards
bearing your desired Soundex number, by
scanning for the first (Christian) names of
the individual you're trying to locate. Within
each Soundex code, the index cards are
alphabetized by first names.

STEP 5, When you believe you've found
your ancestor, some of the cards will have
written information for you to copy, but most
will just have numbers. Copy all numbers!
The first number is the age/sex (for example
"21M" means a 21 year old male) The
second number is the line number on the
original ship manifest on which your
ancestor's name appears. The third number
in the right corner of the index card is a
volume number. With this number, you can
find the date the ship arrived.

STEP 6, With these numbers carefully
copied, now go back to the same National
Archives microfiche that contained the
passenger index and look for the volume
number (written on the fiche as V) This you
remember is the number you found in the
right corner of the index card on the index
microfilm. When you find the number, it will
then show you the date of the ship arrival
and the FHL film number to order the actual
passenger manifest. (There is also a book
available for finding the volume numbers, it
works the same way.

Now just as when you ordered the index
film, you must order the FHL film which is
the ultimate goal of this entire exercise.

STEP 7, Now just as when you ordered
the index film, you will find yourself
confronted with passenger manifests of
many ships, in fact all the ships that arrived
at New York on that same day. You still
have a little work to do.

First look again at the numbers you
copied from the index cards. That second
number is the one next to the age/sex is the
line number, and the number after that is
the page number. For each ship, find the
corresponding page and line. Eventually
you will come across the correct ship, and
when you do, you have found your ancestor!
You can then begin to extract the real
information you've worked so hard to
discover.

You will often find information such as
hometown, destination address, even the
amount of money carried in your ancestor's

pocket. Scanning the rest of the page will often reveal other relatives or "Paisani" (often distant cousins) traveling on the same ship. Copy everything!! in fact, if you can, get a good photocopy for your records.

Congratulations and continue good luck.

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CONFEDERATE PENSIONS

Don't forget that any pension dollars your Confederate ancestor may have gotten did not necessarily come from the state from which he served during the War between the States. The pension could come from the state in which the veteran or his surviving family lived at the time of the enactment of pension laws by individual states.

For example; in 1889 Texas enacted a Confederate Pension law that provided cash awards to disabled veterans or their widows living in Texas prior to 1880 who meet certain requirements. The Texas State Library maintains, and will search on request, an alphabetical listing of pension applicants, including widows whose pensions were issued under another name. If found, the library makes a copy of the pension application and mails it to the requester along with a bill for cost of copies and postage. Write the Texas State Library, Lorenzo de Zavala State Archives and Library Building, Box 12927, Austin, Texas 17711.

The State of Arkansas first passed pension laws in 1891, the resultant applications are indexed at the Arkansas History Commission which will provide a copy of the pension file for \$5. Please request no more than one search per letter and include a SASE. Provide as much information as possible when requesting a file: veteran's name, Arkansas County of residence and military unit. Write Arkansas History Commission, Little Rock, AR 72201

—The Family Tree-Ellen Payne Odens Gen. Library

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TO UNDERSTAN A MAN YOU MUST UNDERSTAND HIS MEMORIES

PROBLEMS WITH CIVIL WAR VETS RECORDS?

Civil War Records for Federal veterans can write the national Archives and Records Administration, General Reference Branch (NNRG-P), 7th & Pennsylvania Ave, NW, Washington DC 20408. Describe what is known about the veteran, his military unit, etc.

—The Family Tree-Ellen Payne Odem Library

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SOUTH GEORGIA ROOTS?

If you have queries or stories, tales, or reunions connected to South Georgia, be sure and write: The Colquitt County Family Album, c/o The Observer, PO Box 889, Moultrie, GA 31776. This feature appears each Monday in the daily newspaper in Moultrie, Colquitt County, Georgia.

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I HEREBY AFFIRM

If a person *AFFIRMS* instead of swearing or gives an oath on a legal document, one might suspect that the family may be Quaker.

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MORTALITY SCHEDULES

These special census schedules were compiled by the Census Bureau in 1850, 1860, 1870 & 1880 of persons who died in the twelve month period preceding taking of the census. Most are available on microfilm from the National Archives or from Family History Centers (LDS). Usual information given is name, age, martial status, birthplace, occupation, cause of death and duration of illness

—DuPage County (IL) Genealogical Society-Winter 1995/1996

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CIVIL WAR RESEARCH

If your ancestor was between the age of 18 and 45 during the Civil War, but you can find no record of his service, you might check an often overlooked source. Medical records of drafted and rejected men of the Civil War are available in the National Archives by Congressional District as of 1863. All men, drafted or rejected for the Union Army, should be recorded in the Medical Register of Examinations. The

data includes: residence (county and township), age, place of birth and physical characteristics. If the recruit was rejected, the reasons are given.

—DuPage County (IL) Genealogical Society-Winter 1995/1996

FADED WRITING

If you have a document with faded writing too dim to read, try a 75 watt black light bulb in any socket that casts light directly on the material. It will do wonders in many instances by bringing out the writing so it can be read.

—DuPage County (IL) Genealogical Society-Winter 1995/1996

CCC RESEARCH

Was your ancestor in the civilian Conservation Corps? If so, do you know where to look for those records? Records of civilian employees of the Federal government are stored at the National Personnel Records Center, Civilian Records Facility, 111 Winnebago St., St. Louis, MO 63118. These old records can contain much personal information, but due to privacy laws, the contents of some files may not be available until they are 75 years old. For details on how to request information from the Records Center, contact them at the above address or call (314) 425-5671. There is also a web site <http://www.nara.gov/nara/fre/cpr.html>. There is also a CCC alumni association; The National Association of CCC Alumni, 16 Hancock Ave, Box 16429, St. Louis, MO 63125.

—From the AGLL's "Genealogy Bulletin"

SAR

The National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution doesn't get as much press as does the companion organization, the Daughters of the American Revolution, but the SAR is just as old, founded in 1889 as a non-profit, non-secret, and non-political organization. Today the SAR consists of 50 state societies, with more that 400 local or regional SAR chapters. The SAR Genealogical Library, housed in the Headquarters in Louisville, Kentucky (1000 South 4th St. 40203) has a reference

collection of nearly 4000 family histories and 25,000 other genealogical works. Any man of 18 years who is a lineal descendant of a Revolutionary War patriot is eligible for membership. For more information on the SAR, including how to contact your local group, write the national address above.

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MISSOURI RESEARCH

When researching Missouri records during the period of early 1860s to about 1875 and you find a woman selling property, do not automatically assume that she is a widow. It could be she was acting as the head of a family because of her husband's loss of civil rights because of his service in behalf of the South, or sympathies for the Southern cause. In such a case when his civil rights were restored later, you will find him handling financial transactions for the family again.

If you are searching for someone born in Missouri between 1805 and 1812, check Louisiana records. During those years Missouri was a part of the Louisiana Territory.

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REAL ESTATE/LAND RECORD TERMS

Abstract: Summary or abridgment of a record.

Abstract of title: A history of title to a piece of property

Arpent: Old French land measure equal to .84 acres

Base Line: The east-west line used for surveying within the public domain.

Bounty Land: Public land awarded to soldiers (often) for military service.

Chain: (Survey) 66 feet: 10 sq chains =1 acre; 16 sq. poles - 1 sq chain.

Conveyance: An instrument by which title of property is transferred, a deed.

Deed: A written document by which the ownership of land is transferred from one person to another.

Deed of Trust: A deed which conveys an equitable right interest in property distinct from legal ownership thereof, also a property interest held by one person for the benefit of another.

Warranty Deed: An agreement and assurance by the grantor of real property for himself

and his heirs to the effect that he is the owner and will defend the title given.

Trust Deed: A form of mortgage.

Trustee's Deed: A deed given by a trustee which conveys property under his trust.

Deed in Trust: A deed given to place property in the name of the trustee.

Deed of Trust: A deed which conveys an equitable right interest in property distinct from legal ownership thereof, also a property interest held by one person for the benefit of another.

Devise: A gift of real property by the last will and testament of an individual

Devisee: The party who receives real property by a will, also called "Legatee"

Devisor: An individual who bequeaths real property to another by will.

Dower Right: The right of a widow to receive a portion or interest in her husband's estate (usually 1/3)

Eminent Domain: Sovereign power of state over property within the state which allows it to appropriate any for necessary public use, reasonable compensation being made.

Et Al: And others

Et Ux: And wife or spouse.

Fee Simple: An absolute inheritance, a fee without any limitations

In Fee Tail: An estate of inheritance limited to a class of heirs.

Freehold: A tenure of real property by which an estate of inheritance or for life is held.

Grantor: A person, who by a written instrument, transfer to another, an interest in land

Intestate: Without having made a valid will.

Joint Tenancy: A tenancy or ownership shared equally by two or more person with the right of survivorship.

Judgment Lien: The charge upon the lands of a debtor resulting from the decree of a court property entered in the judgment docket.

Lien: A legal claim upon property of a debtor for the satisfaction of a debt.

Mechanics Lien: A lien allowed by the statute to contractors, laborers, and material-men on building or other structures upon which work has been performed or materials supplied.

Mortgagee: A designation for the mortgage borrower on land.

Tenancy in Common: An estate of interest in land held by two or more persons, each having equal rights or ownership, but without any right of survivorship between owners

Title: An Instrument used to encumber land as a security for debt or to show ownership

Trustee: A person holding property in trust.

Uniform Commercial Code: A comprehensive modernization of numerous uniform acts and miscellaneous laws relating to sales of personal property, commercial paper, security interests and allied projects.

Lis Pendens: A notice recorded in the official records of a county to indicate that a suit is pending affecting the lands where the notice is recorded.

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THE OLD TRAILS ROAD

The Coast to Coast "*Old Trails Road*" consists of Braddock's or Washington's road, the Cumberland road or National Pike, Boone's Lick road, the Santa Fe Trail and the Old Trail.

Efforts to establish the Old Trails road was began in 1909 with the National Society Daughters of the Revolution (DAR) began a movement to mark the Santa Fe Trail. Over the years this effort was expanded to marking a coast to coast migratory trail. In 1912 a national Old Trails Association was formed to assist the DAR in establishing the road marking. Then Missouri Judge, Harry S. Truman was president of the Association. Congress appropriated money and U. S. Highway 40 was designated the route along the route of the old five trails.

The DAR, which had collected \$12,000 to mark the trails road, decided in 1927 that a better way to mark the trail would be to commission the making of 12 statues to be named "Madonna of the Trail". The statues portray the spirit of the pioneer mother honoring both the trail and honoring the women and the accomplishments of their tasks as they helped shaped the destiny of this nation.

At each location, two of four inscriptions on the base of the monument relate historic significance of

the location and the famous pioneers connected with the trail in that state.

The statues are the idea of Mrs. John Trigg Moss of St. Louis, Missouri, who served as the National Chairman of the National Old Trails Committee for the NSDAR. She was the force behind the planning, designing and selecting the sculptor, commissioning the making of the statues and selecting the sites to erect the statues.

The "Madonna Of the Trail" statues are located along the trail are: Bethesda, Maryland; Washington, Pennsylvania; Wheeling, West Virginia; Springfield, Ohio; Richmond, Indiana; Vandalia, Illinois; Lexington, Missouri; Council Grove, Kansas; Lamar, Colorado; Albuquerque, New Mexico; Springerville, Arizona, and Upland, California.

Read "The Historic Treasure Chest of the Madonna of the Trail Monuments" by Fern Loula Bauer. To obtain a copy, send \$10 to: Lagonda Chapter DAR, Pennsylvania House, 1311 W. Main, Springfield, OH 45870

FORMER COTTER WOMAN LOST IN MOUNTAIN VIEW, ARKANSAS.

Baxter Bulletin - November 5, 1943 Issue

Mrs. Jane Hill, 80 years old, who disappeared from the home of her son, John Hill near Mountain View October 10, at 2 o'clock, is still missing. It is one of the most baffling cases that ever confronted the people and officers of Stone county. Since she disappeared every foot of ground including a number of caves have been thoroughly searched within five miles of the Hill home and no trace of her had been found. She went to Mountain View in April from Cotter where she was living with her son John.

Many rumors since her disappearance as to her whereabouts have been in circulation in Stone county during the past 10 days. That she was picked up by some car or truck driver and returned to Cotter, that she stumbled into a cave and died; that she crawled under the house and died; that she might have been killed and her body tossed into the cistern; that someone might have picked her up and sent her to the state asylum; that she might have been killed and buried in an old toilet on the place. In an interview with Sheriff John B. Burrows last night he stated that he has run down every rumor and didn't find a trace of her.

• She was a very feeble old lady and could not have walked but a short distance. It is stated that she left the house on Saturday afternoon about two o'clock and said she was going home, which was her son's home in Cotter. That is the last that was ever seen or heard of her. While living in Cotter it is said that she was in bed most of the time. Sheriff John B. Bowers stated that it was the first case he had encountered without a clue or a motive, but that he would keep up the search until he found her.

Member Connie Pearl, 3309 E. Mt. Vernon, Wichita, KS 67218, E-mail: pearl@feist.com, sent the article about Aletha Jane (Fowler) Hill and her disappearance. She was able to find the above article with the help of Margie Garr's "Hatch, Match & Dispatch" books (index to the Baxter Bulletin). She is seeking information on Aletha Jane's parents or siblings. Her grandfather is John Hill who married Rena (Holt) Hill.

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SAY THIS THREE TIMES FAST!

A flea with the flu met a fly in a flue.
Said the flea with the flu to the fly in the flue, "Lets fly".
Said the fly without flu to the flea in the flue, "Yes, lets fly".
So finally they flew through a flaw in the flue.

MURDER IN FULTON COUNTY

In the turbulent times following the Civil War, violence, lawlessness and political strife was experienced. The following murder case is an example of the conditions experienced in our area. The events described in the following account took place in Fulton County in an area known as Bennets Bayou, later to become part of Baxter County.

On September 26, 1869, Captain Simpson Mason was murdered in Fulton County by "Unknown" persons". Mason was with five or six men when the ambush occurred and "two balls" struck Mason's body, killing him instantly. The men with Mason did not see the people who fired.

"NORTH ARKANSAS TIMES" REPORT

Of the many versions of the event, the *North Arkansas Times* is thought to have presented the most accurate details of the murder. With the many versions reported of this murder, the major missing item was who was his murderer.

Simpson Mason was a man hated by Anti-unionist. Three things would have made him an evil man in the eyes of Southerners. First he was a Freedman's Bureau Agent who provided relief to the freed slaves. Second, he was a Captain of the Union Army, which had killed a quarter of a million Southern soldiers. Third he was a voter registrar, who carried out the law to allow "no one to vote who comes within the disqualifying clauses of the constitution and who does not first take the oath prescribed in the constitution". Arkansas Law at that point in time stated "No person shall be registered who during the late rebellion took the oath of allegiance to the Confederacy" This law was to keep those who participated in the rebellion from voting. Capt. Simpson Mason was one of the registrars who stuck to the "law books" and as a result he was ambushed and assassinated on his way to the place of registration. Due to violence to many other registrars, many of the registrars resigned and made elections impossible for a time.

The *North Arkansas Times* reported the following activities surrounding Mason's murder. "On the 19th of September near 7 o'clock, a.m. Simpson Mason, with an escort of six members of the Fulton County militia, started from North Fork township to Bennett's Bayou precinct. (Harlow's Store), a distance of about 13 miles. When within

about 3 1/2 miles of their destination, they were fired upon from the bushes. By judging from the firing, three men fired, as three shots were fired and three balls entered Mason's body, killing him instantly".

The escorts fired into the thickets and galloped off to the house of Mr. Houston Thompson, about 200 yards away. The escorts told Mr. Thompson to retrieve Mason's body and to save all of his personal belongings, for they, the escorts were going after the murderers who shot Mason. They also claimed that Colonel Tracey was the murderer. The escorts then found an old man by the name of Clerk, who was pulling fodder. They accused Clerk of murdering Mason, and ordered the old man to stay at home until they returned with reinforcements. On the next morning, September 20th, the escorts returned with twenty men and took the body to his late residence on Strawberry, saying that killing had only just commenced!

A couple of days later the sheriff, Edward Spears, arrived on Bennett's Bayou with about thirty militiamen. After searching for N. T. Baker, they went to Capt. H. H. Tracey's house in search of Col. Tracey. The sheriff then arrested Fielding Herrons and Joseph H. Tracey, the Captain's brother. Spears then went in search of Uriah B. Bush and found him plowing his field. At that time, Capt. T. C. Flutey and T. W. Baker rode up. Baker thought that the sheriff was the militia of William Monks, a big red-headed colonel of the Union Army with smallpox scars on his face and a close friend to Mason. Baker tried to escape, but Flutey recognized the sheriff and told Baker not to run. The sheriff then arrested Mr. Bush and Capt Flutey questioned the sheriff. The sheriff told him he had warrants for several men and that he understood the citizens intended to resist the law and consequently he had brought a force to fight any and all resistance. Spears informed Flutey that he also had a warrant for Colonel Flutey and others, who were charged with

Mason's murder. Captain Flutey protested of the use of a militia and told the sheriff "If you will send this militia home, I will vouch that you can arrest and bring to trial any person in the county you may wish, and further more, I will vouch that you will not be hurt or molested in the discharge of your duties".

The next morning Capt. Flutey and Sheriff Spears arrived at Col Tracey's home. The sheriff then told Tracy's wife, "Tell the Col. that I have a warrant for him and that he can come down on Strawberry and stand his trial and that I will vouch that he is not molested by any mob, or outraged in anyway." The wife told the sheriff that Col. Tracey would be home either today or tomorrow. Then William Monks rode up. The sheriff thought it was Dr. Butler, but Flutey knew it was Monks and left Col. Tracey's home. The sheriff then swore in Monks and his men as "Fulton County Militia" Captain Flutey met Col Tracey on the road and told him that Monks was in the area.

Col. Tracey then stated that he would not be arrested until Monks left. Tracey wanted the sheriff to know this and that Tracey did want to meet with the sheriff. Col. Tracey then went to a nearby ridge to await the sheriff. Monks and forty of his men (not the sheriff) came after Tracey who made his escape. Monk's militia then commenced scouring the county, destroying forage, fences and riding over yards, feeding and camping around houses and saying that they had come down to Arkansas to fatten themselves and their horses. They robbed Harlem's store, the store of H. Price and Company and an old man named Galbreath. Monks had said to his men: "All who are in favor of killing the prisoners, fall into line and I am with you". All the men from Missouri and all but fifteen Arkansas men fell into a line. Sheriff Spears protested: "These are my prisoners and I do not want them hurt." Monks then told Spears that "he had the power and that he would do as he d___ ed pleased about the matter". Monks told Bryant and Bush that he would kill them within two days if they did not bring forward the men who committed the murder. The sheriff then left, leaving the prisoners in the hands of the mob and never went back to see what had become of them, saying

that he was afraid that they would kill him also.

That evening Monks took "possession" of Colonel Tracey's house and chained U. B. Bush to a bed. Monk's men then ransacked the place doing "between seven hundred and a thousand dollars damage". They then took out Cap. Bryant, hung him up by the neck, and told him that if he did not say that certain parties killed Mason they would kill him. But if he would implicate certain parties that he should be released. Bryant was then allowed to return to Tracey's house and told Bush, "I had to tell them that you did assist in killing Mason". Capt. Bryant was then allowed to make his "escape". Monks then arrested B. T. Deshazo, a very harmless citizen, and tied a rope around his neck and surrounded him with pistols, cocked. Monks then informed Deshazo that if he did not implicate Colonel Tracey, Capt. Tracey, T. W. Baker, U. B. Bush and Capt. L. D. Bryant, he would be shot. Deshazo refused and they abused him very badly. Monks and his men then caught Deshazo's little brother and forced him to "say just what they wanted him to say and used it as evidence.

That next day, before Monks had a chance to execute Bush, "Pink" Turner, the deputy Sheriff, arrived with a writ of habeas corpus for the prisoners. At first, Monks resisted the writ, but later some of Monk's men went into Tracey's house and took some newspapers and made caps of them, and started up the road in the direction of Salem, saying that they were "Ku Klux". Monks then told Turner that he would obey the writ. Turner took U. B. Bush, and J. H. Tracey and headed for Salem. After they traveled two miles, a party of men, with paper caps on, rode directly up and made efforts to seize the bridles of the prisoners' horses. They succeeded in catching Bush's horse and the deputy caught J. H. Tracey's horse. A few seconds later they heard Bush pleading for his life and directly then heard firing. The next morning Bush's body was found pierced with three balls.

Along with N. W. Baker, E. C. Hunter and J. M. Archer, J. H. Tracey stood trial and was acquitted. The prosecuting attorney in Salem was convinced that this whole ordeal was nothing more than a Union League trick to get vengeance from certain parties. *The*

Times protested against the bringing of armed bodies of radicals from another state. It also stated that "we do not justify the killing of Capt. Mason" and would do nothing to shield the real guilty party".

The *North Arkansas Times* claimed that Bush was not one of the guilty parties. Mr. Bush was an orderly, law-abiding honest citizen and highly esteemed by all honest men that knew him. The pretext that he was implicated in any way in the murder of Capt. Mason is preposterous. *The Times* also reported Captain L. D. Bryant was hung up three times before he submitted to a confession in which he implicates sixteen men. All of those implicated by the reported confession of Bryant who were arrested, some five or six in number, were realized on being examined before a magistrate in Salem. No evidence being produced to justify their committal.

THE BATESVILLE REPUBLICAN'S REPORT

The *Batesville Republican* contradicted *The Times* stating that Bryant's testimony implicated Tracy and Bush. The *Republican* also announced that the whole plot for Mason's murder was concocted and arranged in Batesville. *The Republican* claimed that in a speech delivered at the barbecue in Batesville on September 10th 1868, D. Nichols was reported to have said "Go up and offer to register, and he who is refused let him hold Mr. John Campbell, (one of the independence County Registrars) responsible and teach him that his miserable neck shall pay the forfeit of his audacity. *The Republican* also reported that Wm. Byers called on a vast throng of excited men, who listened to him to mark those officials. *The Republican* accused Colonel Cameron of advising the assassination of the Honorable Elisha Baxter (County Judge) and other official.

William denied any involvement and defined the "falsehoods" as a willful malicious, wicked and deliberate lie and known to be such by the author and the publisher thereof when it was written and published. Byers also proclaimed. "I was present and upon the stand at the barbecue grounds when Col Cameron made his speech. He did not advise the assassin-

ation of Hon. E. Baxter and other officials. Byers also claimed that Nichols did not even make a speech on the said day.

To be concluded in the next issue of the "History"

◆◆◆

Another Baxter County Family

Descendants of

William Henry HIGHTOWER

William Henry Hightower, with his brother Joshua and their brother-in-law, James Wren, received land grants in the Arkansas Territory for fighting in the War of 1812. All three men appear on the 1824 Arkansas Territory Tax List. From the "History of Baptist Churches in North Arkansas" it is reported that they built and organized the first Baptist Church in IZARD County, namely the Rocky Bayou Baptist Church, in 1830. It began with eight charter members with the Hightowers and Wren families being six of the members, a Mr. Orr and his wife being the other two.

The Hightowers have resided in North Arkansas since 1824 and many descendants are still living in Baxter County.

—By Member Betty Ruth Brannon

(1) **William Henry Hightower** was born in 1801 at Bowling Green, KY, and on 12 Apr 1819 in Bowling Green, KY, married **Martha Downing**. William Henry was buried in IZARD Co., AR, probably in the Mt. Olive Cemetery near Zion, Arkansas

Children:

+ 2 1 **Andrew Jackson Hightower** was born in 1820.

(2) **Andrew Jackson Hightower**, son of William Henry Hightower and Martha Downing, was born in 1820 at Bowling Green, KY, and married **Nancy Bacon**.

Andrew Jackson's death date and place of burial is not known. He had come to Izard County, Arkansas, with his parents. Nancy was a full blooded Quapow Indian .

Children:

- 3 1 **Paralee Hightower** was born about 1834.
- 4 2 **Elizabeth Hightower** was born about 1838.
- + 5 3 **Henry Hightower** was born about 1847.
- 6 4 **Frances Hightower** was born about 184
- 7 5 **Mary Hightower** was born about 1848.

(5) **Henry Hightower**, son of Andrew Jackson **Hightower** and Nancy **BACON**, was born in 1847, and married **Martha Rush**. Henry died in 1896 and was buried in Ada, OK. Martha died in Baxter Co., AR. Henry and Martha were divorced in 1872 and she moved to Texas to live with her parents, taking her baby, Alford, with her.

Children:

- 8 1 **Alford Hightower**
(In 1994 Billy Hightower from Farmersville, TX, a grandson of Alford contacted Betty Brannon. He was very interested in his Arkansas ancestors.)

Henry Hightower married 2nd in 1876 at Baxter Co., AR, **Matilda Boyer**. Matilda & Henry were buried in Box X Cemetery, Ada, OK. Matilda was also married to George Deatherage and had three Deatherage children: Minnie born 1865, George born 1867 and Gerome born 1872.

Henry and Matilda moved to Ada Oklahoma soon after their marriage. Henry died by accidentally shooting himself in 1896. Matilda lived to be 78 years old (birth and deaths dates are not shown)

Children:

- + 9 1 **Wallis Hightower** was born in 1877.

10 2 **Marcus Hightower** was born in 1888. Marcus was buried in Waco, TX.

11 3 **Wesley Hightower** married **Etta CROW**. Etta was buried in Box X CEM, Ada, OK.

Wesley and Etta never had children.

(9) **Wallis Hightower**, son of Henry Hightower and Matilda Boyer, was born in 1877, and in 1897 at Gassville, Baxter Co., AR, married **Ada Anglin**, daughter of George Washington Anglin and Martha Jane White, who was born in 28 July 1876. Wallis died in 1968 and was buried in Oakland Cemetery, State Line, Baxter Co., AR. Ada died in 3 Apr 1943 at Baxter Co., AR and was buried in Old Oakland Cemetery, Baxter Co., AR.

Children:

- + 12 1 **Myrtis Hightower** was born in 1898.
- + 13 2 **Virgie May Hightower** was born in 1900.
- + 14 3 **Jessie Leon Hightower** was born on 18 Sep 1899.
- 15 4 **Minnie Hightower** was born on 23 June 1905. Minnie died 27 Apr 1910 and was buried in Oakland Cemetery, State Line, Baxter Co., AR. Minnie died at five years of age.
- + 16 5 **Eugene Hightower** was born on 9 Apr 1908.
- + 17 6 **Elmer Floyd Hightower** was born in 1910.
- 18 7 **Nellie Hightower** was born in 1912, and married **Part Pierson**. Nellie & Part were buried in Sunnyside, WA.
- 19 8 **Troy Hightower** was born in 1914, and married **Bela Shew**. Troy was buried in Gassville Cemetery, Gassville, AR. Bela was living in 1966
- + 20 9 **Ray Hightower** was born in 1916.

21 10 **Don Hightower** was born in 1918, and married **Georgia**. Don was buried in Hitchcock, TX. No children were born of this union. Georgia was still alive in 1966.

(12) **Myrtis Hightower**, daughter of Wallis Hightower and Ada Anglin, was born in 1898, and married **Dolph Denton**. They were both buried in Oakland Cemetery, near the Mo/AR State Line, Baxter Co., AR.

Children:

22 1 **Dan Denton**
 23 2 **Luria Denton**
 24 3 **Clarence Denton**
 25 4 **Nevel Denton**
 26 5 **Virgle Denton**
 27 6 **Ralph Denton**
 28 7 **Helen Denton**

(13) **Virgie May Hightower**, daughter of Wallis Hightower and Ada Anglin, was born in 1900, and married **Nat Aldridge**. Virgie May was buried in Keystone, OK. They moved to Mushogee, OK.

Children:

29 1 **Claud Aldridge**
 30 2 **Jo Aldridge**
 31 3 **Darleen Aldridge**

(14) **Jessie Leon Hightower**, son of Wallis Hightower and Ada Anglin, was born 18 Sep 1899, and died 1966, and married **Fannie May Lance**. Jessie Leon and Fannie May were both buried in Memorial Gardens, Mountain Home, AR.

Children:

32 1 **Ina Hightower** She died as an infant.
 33 2 **Bobbie Jo HIGHTOWER** was born 25 Dec 1932.

(16) **Elmer Floyd HIGHTOWER**, son of Wallis HIGHTOWER and Ada

ANGLIN, was born in 1910, and married **Millie BAYLESS** who was born on 9 Mar 1909 and died 6 Jan 1993. Both are buried in Mountain Home Cemetery, Mountain Home, AR.

Children:

34 1 **Ina May HIGHTOWER** married **Juan Weatherford**.
 35 2 **Jimmy Wayne Hightower** married **Betty**.
 36 3 **Loren Dean Hightower** born 1893 and died in 1952, buried in Mountain Home Cemetery, Mountain Home, Baxter County, AR..
 37 4 **Norma Jean Hightower** married **Bill**.
 38 5 **June Hightower** married **Kenneth Perry**.

(17) **Eugene Hightower**, son of Wallis Hightower and Ada Anglin, was born 9 Apr 1908 in Oakland, Marion Co., AR, and married **Stella "Ted" McCracken** who was born 19 Apr 1910. Eugene died on 4 Sep 1967 in Mountain Home, Baxter Co., Stella "Ted" died on 8 Aug 1970 in Mountain Home, Baxter Co., AR and both are buried in Fairview Cemetery, Flippin, AR.

Children:

+ 39 1 **Betty Ruth Hightower** was born on 22 Sep 1932.
 40 2 **Jo Ann Hightower** was born 12 Jun 1941. Jo Ann died on 2 Jan 1990 and was buried in Fairview Cemetery, Flippin, AR.
 41 3 **Vivian Sue Hightower** was born 18 Aug 1943.
 42 4 **Roger Dale Hightower** was born 12 Aug 1947 married Valery Heffley (no children).

43 5 **Carroll Wayne Hightower** was born in 1934. Carroll Wayne died in 1935 and was buried in Fairview Cemetery, Flippin, AR.

(39) **Betty Ruth Hightower**, daughter of Eugene Hightower and Stella "Ted" McCracken, was born 22 Sep 1932 in Flippin, Marion Co., AR, and on 10 May 1954 in Witichia, KS, married **Paul Eugene Dawkins** who was born 22 Aug 1931 in Lawton, OK.

Children:

- + 44 1 **Paul Eugene Dawkins** was born on 4 Mar 1955.
- + 45 2 **Karen Lynn Dawkins** was born on 6 Aug 1957.
- + 46 3 **Laura Kaye Dawkins** was born on 15 Apr 1959.

Betty Ruth also married on 26 Nov 1962 in Lawton, OK, **Bill Brannon** who was born 20 Oct 1922 in Eros, LA.

Children:

- + 47 1 **Richard Allen Brannon** was born on 19 Nov 1964.

(44) **Paul Eugene Dawkins**, son of Paul Eugene Dawkins and Betty Ruth Hightower, was born 4 Mar 1955, KY, and married **Julia Baxley** at Fort Campbell,.

Children:

- 48 1 **Nathaniel Paul Dawkins** was born 19 Apr 1987.

(45) **Karen Lynn Dawkins**, daughter of Paul Eugene Dawkins and Betty Ruth Hightower, was born 6 Aug 1957 in Lawton, OK, and on 13 Jun 1977, married **Dennis Grant**.

Children:

- 49 1 **Amanda Grant** was born 7 Jul 1979 in Mountain Home, Baxter Co., AR.
- 50 2 **Logan Grant** was born 18 Jul 1980 in Mountain Home, Baxter Co., AR.

(46) **Laura Kaye Dawkins**, daughter of Paul Eugene Dawkins and Betty Ruth Hightower, was born 15 Apr 1959 in Lawton, OK, and in Jun 1978, married **James Donald Brader**.

Children:

- 51 1 **Stacey Marie Brader** was born 1 Aug 1981 in Heber Springs, AR.

(47) **Richard Allen Brannon**, son of Bill Brannon and Betty Ruth Hightower, was born 19 Nov 1964 in Columbus, GA, and has the following children:

Children:

- 52 1 **James Brannon** was born 30 Oct 1965. (twin)
- 53 2 **Joseph Bradford Brannon** was born 30 Oct 1965 in Lawton, OK. (Twin)

(20) **Ray Hightower**, son of Wallis Hightower and Ada Anglin, was born in 1916, and married **Lee Ellen Jones**. Ray was buried in Fairview Cemetery, Flippin, AR.

Children:

- 54 1 **Wanda Jones**
Lives in Flippin, Arkansas
- 55 2 **Sanda Jones**
Lives in Flippin, AR.

MORE MEMBERS E-MAIL ADDRESSES

Joseph and Irma Bloom:
joebloom@centuryinter.net

1830 Census - Izard County
 Head of Households

Page 1

Adams, Matthew, Sr.
 Clifton, William
 Roberts, Brown
 Dearman, John
 Wolfe, Jacob
 Williams, Elijah
 Ezell, William H
 Livingston, Aaron
 Wolf, John
 Adams, Matthew Jr
 McCubbin, Nancy
 Tyler, Baker
 Hively, Daniel
 Hutchingson, Richard
 Diel, Hasting
 Adams, Alexander
 Reynolds, James
 Tyler, Edmund
 Scisco, Simeon F.
 Robison, William
 Wood, Thomas D.
 Hargrave, John
 Neel, John O.
 Autry, Henry
 Wood, Abraham, Sr.
 Long, George

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Jordon, James
 Cochran, David
 Wood, Abraham Jr.
 Wood, John
 Hurst, John
 Talburt, Frederick, Jr.
 Moarland, William
 Lyner, Henry
 Russell, Thomas
 Tyler, Jacob
 Pierson, Levi
 Cooper, Cornelius
 Carpetner, Levi
 McVay, James
 Howard, William, Jr.
 Duggin, Stephen
 Rieyley, Silas

Floral, Isaac
 Friend, Jacob, Jr.
 Hall, David - free
 colored
 Ford, John B.
 Graham, Berry D.
 Keesee, Richard
 Lantz, Moses

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Friend, James
 Robins, Aaron
 Robins, Nancy
 Graham, Gallant
 Coker, William, Sr
 Wood, George W.
 Coker, Charles
 Coker, Edward
 Coker, William, Jr.
 Coker, Joseph
 Sneed, William

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Walker, Andrew
 Langston, Hiram
 Ramsay, Thomas
 Martin, Miles
 Finley, Isaac
 Woods, Samuel
 Woods, John L
 Griggs, Daniel
 Griggs, Jefferson
 Musick, Alfred
 Finely, Zachariah
 Sneed, Charles
 Watkins, William
 Phillips, Francis
 Yoachum, Allen
 Yoachum, Jesse
 Howard, William R.
 Howard, Henry
 Flora, Abijah
 Graham, John B.
 Graham, Elijah
 Nettles, Shadrach

Hogan, Ewing
 Bivens, Mary
 Brown, Archibald
 Davis, David

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Bowman, Andrew
 Montgomery, James
 Carter, Randolph -free
 colored
 Womack, David
 McLaughlin, Joseph
 Doyle, John
 Adams, Peter F.
 Adams, Jesse, Sr.
 Caufair, Peter - free
 colored
 Turner, James - free
 colored
 Martin, William, Sr.
 Martin, Thomas
 Wood, William
 Blyeth, John
 Talburt, Bazell
 Talburt, Frederick, Sr.
 Talburt, Walter
 Yoachum, Michael
 O'Neal, George W.
 Thomas, William
 O'Neal, Robert
 Ferrier, Thomas
 Hightower, Oldham
 Adams, Robert, Sr.
 Graves, Samuel
 Davis, Samuel
 Talburt, Simeon
 Harris, John
 Williams, Thomas S.
 Ross, Charles T.
 Jeffery, Jehoida
 Langston, Nathan
 Fellow, David F.
 Wallace, Esther
 Ward, Samuel
 Culp, Thomas

Jeffery, Daniel

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O'Neal, Cornelius
Wood, James A.
Hightower, Henry
Stinnett, David
Stinnett, Abner
Stinnett, William
Minyard, Elizabeth
Boran, James
Barker, George
Crassapegh, George
Wilson, Daniel
Wells, Anthony T.
Drummond, Essa
Mubble, Wilson
Brannon, John
Brown, Gideon
Chisolm, Benjamin
Stewart, Moses
King, Isaac
Stewart, John W.
Harris, James
Chisolm, Winnefred
Perry, Isom

page 7

Evans, Zachariah
Crewsell, Davis
Hayden, Webb E.
Gray, John
Walker, John, Sr.
Walker, John, Jr.
Hightower, Maryann
Trimble, John
Trimble, James
Pertee, Lewis L.
French, Nancy
Smith, William R.
Langston, John
Langston, Caleb
Fulkerson, Frederick
Finley, William
Churchill, Joseph D.
Martin, Joshua
Jeffery, James
Langston, Absolom
Wear, Elijah

Haggart, Letitia
Weatherford, William
Wooten, Lorenzo D.
Livingston, Robert
Cochran, James L.

Page 8

Tabour, Elijah
Adams, John
Langston, Jesse
Johnson, Spencer
Wolf, Michael, Jr.
Carrol, Jackson
Jeffery, Jesse
Lantz, Yandel
Walker, William B.
Finley, Uz.
Wolf, Michael, Sr.

Editor: The 1830 census was furnished by member Hazel Ballard. Spencer Johnson (page 8 of the census) was her Great-great-grandfather. Thanks so much Hazel!



A Dark Day in Baxter County!

The Wilson Murder Mystery

By Claudette Carter Wakefield

Hunter Wilson was a prosperous rancher and cattleman who lived in the northeast corner of Baxter County, Arkansas, not far from the Missouri Line. On the 18th day of December, 1893, two men came through the front door of his home and said "Put your hands up, we're going to take your money". The money was \$2000, hidden upstairs in a trunk

Mrs. Wilson in the kitchen heard her husband say, "Come on now, Mac-you wouldn't do that to a fella, would you?" Hunter Wilson's laugh was drowned out by the sound of a pistol firing. Mrs. Wilson looked into the living room and saw her husband lying in front of the fireplace. Two masked men looked up and saw her as she started to run. One grabbed her by the hair and the other shot her through the shoulder. She fell to the floor and played dead.

She listened as the two men quickly climbed the stairs and crossed over to the bedroom where the trunk of money was kept. She heard the men coming back down the stairs and into the living room. All this time, the only sound her husband made was to call of God to help him. Hunter Wilson lay silent now as the two men raked coals from the fireplace over and around his body. Mrs. Wilson didn't try to get up until she heard their horses gallop away.

Then by sheer will power she pulled herself up and got a drink of water, to quench the horrible thirst in her throat. She then began the long, slow, torturing crawl to the "rent" house, about a quarter of a mile away. She fainted a few yards away but the horses made so much noise the renter, Bob Roger came out to quiet them and found her.

Rogers and an uncle helped Mrs. Wilson into the house, then went for help, thinking the robbers might still be in the house. Anderson Carter and his son Bart, 17, also known as "Little Bart", went with them to the Wilson

house. Just before they entered, Bart said, "We better not go in without a gun." He pulled out a .38 revolver and they entered the house where they quickly put out the fire before it did much damage. Hunter Wilson was already dead.

Because Mrs. Wilson had heard her husband say, "Mac", she though the robber had been his partner, Bill McAninch. McAninch had been having a drinking problem and there had been harsh words between he and Wilson. McAninch had witnesses to testify that he was in West Plains both before and after the killing, but nevertheless, he was arrested and stood trial for the murder of Hunter Wilson.

Anderson and Bart Carter nearly rode a horse to death, trying to prove that McAninch could have been in West Plains when witnesses saw him, and still have committed the robbery and murder. McAninch and his son, Walter were arrested on December 24 1893 and placed in jail at Mountain Home. Mobs tried to lynch them twice before they were arrested. McAninch carried a .32 caliber Derringer and when the body of Hunter Wilson was exhumed it was found that he had died from a .38 caliber bullet, throwing some doubt on the guilt in the matter. Jerry South was the attorney for Bill and Walter McAninch and even before the trial was over the clues began to point to Anderson and Bart Carter.

A few days after the Aninch trial was over and Bill McAninch had been found guilty and sentenced to hang, Tom Brown, a stockman living near Moody, MO, was passing by the Tom Collins house on his way to get his mail. Lizzie Collins hollered and asked him how the trial had turned out. "Oh, they're guilty and will hang." Lizzie said, "I wouldn't be so sure of that".

Tom Brown had been good friends with both Wilson and McAninch and he couldn't get over their partnership turning out that way. He came back to Lizzie's house and got her to drink some whiskey, and when her tongue got loose on both ends, he began to question her. She first said any statement would mean death to her but after he promised her protection, she told this incredible story.

Lizzie was the daughter of Elias Carter and Sarah Hassell, making her Anderson Carter's niece. Her uncle, Anderson Carter, his son Bart, and her brother-in-law, Jasper Newton, alias

Montgomery, were the guilty parties. This fit the pattern, since the battered trunk had been found in the snow on the Carter farm.

After Tom Brown went to the authorities with the story, no move was made for two weeks to give them time to gather more evidence and provide protection for Lizzie. When the arrests were made, the Carters went willingly, thinking this was the trial they had asked for to prove their innocence. Their faces fell when they were taken to Mountain Home and placed in a cell with Jasper Newton.

After the arrest, Mrs. Newton and Mrs. Carter were asked what they knew about the murder. A statement was obtained from each of them under the promise that their husbands would never be permitted to see them again, as they feared death would be their lot should the men ever be released from custody.

Mrs. Newton says she had believed all the time that her husband was guilty of the crime, although he endeavored to conceal the facts from her. She says he left home on Monday, the morning of the murder, and did not return home until late that night. His hand was cut and she got up and dressed the wound. She said she has seen more trouble in the last two months than she ever saw before in her life. She and her sister, Mrs. Collins, both tell a good many things to establish Newton's guilt. Mrs. Anderson Carter was very obstinate in her refusal to tell what she knew, but (with) the promise that her husband should never have the opportunity of hurting her and that her testimony might help matters for her son, Bart, she consented to talk. She says she had known for sometime that the men were plotting together. The night of the murder, Anderson went off and Bart pretended to be sick and went to bed. When she checked later he was gone. Still later he came in wearing different clothes and his father's shoes.

About 12 o'clock Sunday night, Bart was taken out of the jail and away from other prisoners and was promised that if he could tell what he knew, the citizens would keep him from hanging. With the understanding that he would not be put back in the cell with his father and Montgomery.

He said that on Monday, the 18th of December, 1893, the day of the murder, Jasper Newton had hid in his father's barn but that he did not know about the crime or that he was

expected to participate until his father told him he was to go with Jasper Newton and do as he was told or he would be killed by Newton. He also told that no one was to be hurt that the Wilson's would only be tied up and robbed. Then when Wilson threw up his hands, Newton shot him and he also shot Mrs. Wilson when she tried to run. Bart says if he had known they intended to kill the Wilson's anyway, that he would have refused even at the risk of his own life. Anderson is supposed to have planned the whole thing, then went to Dow Bryants to have an alibi, reasoning that he might be a suspect but that Bart would not.

When their attorney informed them that they were in great danger of being mobbed that night, Anderson denies everything and says he does not believe Bart confessed. Newton did not say much. His real name is Jasper Newton Montgomery and he is wanted in Clay County for murder. Later that night they attempted to escape by trying to club the sheriff with stove wood. They failed and only succeeded in getting themselves handcuffed and manacled.

About the same time a mob was gathering at the old East Oakland Baptist Church on (what is now known as) US Hwy 62. They were later known to be Masons who were supposedly avenging the death of fellow Mason Hunter Wilson. One man rode 30 miles on a mule for the "pleasure of putting out Anderson Carter's light". Another man volunteered to kill Montgomery. These two men were given the designation "83" and "C". They rode to the jail, disarmed the guards and threw open the jail door. The men, who were lying on a mattress, stood up and begged for their lives. Carter said, "We're innocent but if you aim to kill us, at least unchain us so we can die like men".

The leader of the mob replied, "Wilson didn't get to choose how he died." At a signal from the leader, 30 to 40 shots emptied through the jail door. Newton and Carter fell back. Carter asked for a drink of water. After he drank it, he said, "Newt tell the truth, don't die with it in your mouth."

Newton said, "I didn't kill Wilson". The ring leader then called "C" and a masked man stepped to the jail door and shot Newton in the head. The number "83" was called and another masked man stepped in and shot Carter in the

head. Then the mob, all masked, melted into the night. Many people did not believe Carter and Newton were guilty. Mrs. Wilson always believed to her dying day that Bill McAninch was the man who killed her husband, because she heard him say "Mac" to one of the robbers.

Bart Carter was tried and convicted of the murder of Hunter Wilson and sentenced to hang. Herein lies the second mystery of the story. You see, Bart Carter was my great great uncle and Anderson Carter my great great grandfather. We were always told that the sheriff had made a deal with Grandma Millie to help Bart escape in exchange for her testimony against Grandpa Anderson. Bart was supposed to have been taken out of the jail, given \$20, a horse and told never to be seen in Arkansas again. If great grandfather, John Anderson Carter, Bart's brother, ever knew what happened to him, he never told. One story is that he lived and died in Tallaquah, OK. Another that he was still alive in the 1950s and visited with his cousin Garfield Turner in Shreveport, LA. One time a small gray headed man came to our house in an old car full of every thing he owned. He ate supper with me and even though dad had to go to work on the grave yard shift, he spent the night on our couch. Dad always thought this man was Bart Carter. All I know is that to this day, almost 40 years later, I can remember the old man. I was too young to remember the questions he asked and the things they talked about but Dad said that he knew too many things and ask too many odd questions to be a complete stranger. A peddler told Dad that he had seen Bart the week before in Shreveport at Garfield's but he didn't pursue it so we don't really know. I guess this is the biggest mystery of all.

—Editor. There are several available accounts of the Wilson Murder. The above story was written by Claudette Margaret Cater, a descendant of Anderson Carter. In a future quarterly I will present another version from a direct descendant of Hunter Wilson. In further correspondence with our treasurer, Stella Jackson, Claudette tells that Anderson Carter and Jasper Newton (Montgomery) were buried in the Mountain Home Cemetery, in the same plot, one on top of the other. No stone or record exists as to where the exact location is in the cemetery

Margie Garr reports another source that says that Bart (Birditt) Carter was buried in the Oak Grove Cemetery.

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The Society's January Meeting

JANUARY REMINISCENCE: SIMPLY DELIGHTFUL

Contributed by Dale Sharp

Hal (Bud) Bodenhamer, reminisced about growing up in Baxter County with good information and great stories. With a background of five generations on each side of his family in the old Mountain Home Cemetery, Hal left no doubt it would be hard to find a more knowledgeable spokesman about the early growth and development of Mountain Home. The local economy in his youth was based on farming. The prime farms were located along the North Fork River before the dam, but he identified prominent farms in the immediate Mountain Home area. The Baker farm was southwest where the Holiday Inn, Southern Meadows, and the new high school are now located. The Dyer farm was West of town and would now include the Methodist Church and hospital. The Russell farm was North and would now include Baxter Lab and Northern Hills subdivision and extended east to Wallace Knob. The Love farm would now include the Ramada Inn and the surrounding development along hwy 62 East. Hal mused that Frank Love might turn over in his grave if he knew all the things that have been added to his place. The Morris farm was East and would now include Indian Creek subdivision, and the Leonard farm was just South of town and would now include the Pinkston Middle School. The rest of the county was literally covered in smaller farms.

themselves at one time or another while swimming at the "Bud Leonard" hole.

The Model T was the most popular automobile of the early day. There were two garages in town and all roads were gravel. Hal recalls one occasion of riding his bicycle from Mountain Home to Cotter and not seeing a single car. Many folks often went to Cotter, which was a much bigger town than Mountain Home in the 1930's and even had a movie theater.

During response to questions from the audience, Hal mentioned the local "mountains" Pink Smith knob off hwy 5 northwest, Doc Watts hill on hwy 62 East, Wallace Knob (between hwy 201 and 62 East) and the "Bloody Bucket" on hwy 62 southwest. Hal described how that hill got its colorful name. Seems that a lady had hit her husband in the head with a stick of stove wood during a squabble. In order to keep his blood from getting on her nice clean floor, she put his head in a bucket.

Hal leaves no doubt that Mountain Home was a fine place to grow up (and still is). He mentioned that during the depression everyone was poor but no one knew it. Good people fit in well to the local economy, supported their families through good hard work and no one really lacked food, clothing or an opportunity to create memories that would last a lifetime. People visited their neighbors, sat for hours on their front porch and enjoyed life to the fullest. Hal does make one confession that if he had the opportunity to go back and relive his youth he would like to take his air conditioner with him.

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**BLESSED ARE THE FLEXIBLE FOR
FOR THEY SHALL NOT BE BENT OUT
OF SHAPE**

NEW SOCIETY MEMBERS

**Julia Oldfield, 4741 Cartwright Ave.,
Toluca Lake, CA 9602** - Her Baxter County ancestors include James Cooper, b-1803 AL: John Calvin Cooper, who died in the Civil War and was married to Elizabeth Hargrave, dau of John Hargrave, and John Thomas Cooper, son of John Calvin. She looks forward to making family connections with other members.

**Ruthetta "Bunny" Jacobs, 67 Broadview
Drive, Salesville, AR 72653-9782**

**Maddox, Ethelene, Rt 2 Box 32C,
Odessa, Mo 64076**

**Mary Smiley, 4036 Dugan Ln.
Weatherford TX, 76086**

SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS

The Society has the following publications available:

"Of Grave Improtance" The inventory of Baxter County Cemeteries. Over 350 pages, indexed, soft cover. Cost to Members \$35 plus \$3 S&H. (non-members \$40 plus \$3 S&H)

"Early Marriages of Baxter County, AR 1873-1897" 60 pages, indexed, soft cover
Cost to members \$10 plus \$2 S&H (non-members \$12.50 plus \$2 S&H)

"Baxter County Ancestors - Volume #1" Over 200 pages, soft cover, Indexed, pedigree and family charts of Baxter County Families. Cost to members \$20 plus \$3 S&H, non-members \$22.50 plus \$3 S&H

These books may be ordered from the Editor or the Treasurer

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**CHECK YOUR MEMBERSHIP
IS IT PAID UP TO DATE?
WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT**

THE DOLLAR

The "Dollar" coin was never meant to be made in gold and mainly have only been made in silver. Gold dollars were made but only a very few. They were never popular and being small and thin, were easily lost and, when lost very hard to find. They were first minted in 1849 and Congress in 1890 prohibited the minting of gold dollars and directed those in circulation to be withdrawn.

The name dollar was taken from a coin made in Germany called "Thaler" and pronounced "Tollar". A similar piece was made by Spain and it is from this coin that we get our "\$ mark, which represents the Pillars of Hercules twined with the figure 8. Mexico also has similar coin. Our one dollar coin was an imitation of theirs.

To be precise, we do not have paper one dollar bills. If you examine them you will find that they "promise to pay" one dollar. Look at a silver dollar and it says "one dollar". It is not a promise, but is the real thing.



**IF THE CHIGGER WAS BIGGER
AS BIG AS A COW
AND ITS DIGGER HAD VIGOR
LIKE A SUB-SOILER PLOW,
CAN YOU FIGGER, PICKNICKER,
WHERE YOU WOULD BE NOW?**



THE PASSING OF THE OLD ASH HOPPER

What fond memories cluster around the old ash hopper. It has its day before the "Horse and Buggy Days", yes it was in the oxen team days that it reached its "height-day" of usefulness. It passed out in the seventies or soon after. The ash hopper

came unto it's own annually about the first of November. At that time it had to be emptied of the contents of the previous winter and undergo repairs.

If by any means it had seen it best days, the devoted mother was the judge, and a new one had to be made. When a small lad this happened in our home. One morning father got his "blue print" and went to the woods to find a small hollow tree to make the trough to covey the lye into retainers. Next thing to do was to find some straight oaks to split off puncheons or slabs, making one side smooth. A frame was so constructed, resting of four posts about 4 feet high, and puncheons resting on one end in the wooden trough and the other leaning outward at an angle of 45 degrees. The top was about 6 by 8 feet. When completed it was ready for ashes from the winter fire. Ashes from oak and hickory were preferred. At regular intervals the ashes were taken from the fireplace, ran through an old sieve and then emptied into the ash hopper.

It would take most all winter to fill it with ashes. But while this was going on, there were other things of importance to be done in making it a success. Soap "grease" would be needed in the spring and many families cleaned the entrails of hogs during the hog-killing season and certain other parts of the hog were kept with the "soap grease" to be used with the manufacture of the soap.

It was before the cheerful winter fire the farmer spent many happy hours. A new era was ushered in when the wood stove came into use. It consumed so much less wood and produced so much more heat, the new owner thought supreme comfort of man had been reached. The new stove had to be watched close when a few sticks of seasoned hickory wood was placed in the blazing maw, as it would "run-away-

with-itself" it got so hot. The basement with its furnace was not suspected at that time and no one thought the day would come when something else would replace the new stove.

Yet after all this we still find at times a hankering for the old fireplace with the big black log, where we sat leaning against the jam "doing" our problems in 'rithmetic and when finished, the pop corn was brought out with a basket of fine apples of the huntsman favorites, Davis Reds, Rusty Coats and the old Limbertwig varieties. Yum, Yum, these flavors still last, at times it seems.

At last spring came as it always does and in May was soap-making time and orders went out to carry ten buckets of water and start the lye running. I can't remember how many buckets of water it took to wet those ashes and start the lye to dripping. Different size families made different amounts of soap. Our family came in the larger class in respect to the amount made. With a year's supply laid up, we yet wondered how much we would have to furnish the horse-powered threshers for the belts when they came to thresh our wheat, Oh, Say Boy, the old Oxen team days were almost good enough for me.

—Author unknown - *The Johnston City (Ill) Progress*,
February 28, 1936 issue.

NO ENEMIES?

(author unknown)

You have no enemies, you say?
Alas, my friend, the boast is poor.
He who has mingled in the fray
Of duty that the brave endure,
Must have made foes. If you have none,
Small is the work that you have done.
You've hit no traitor on the hip
You've dashed no cup from perjured lips
You've never turned the wrong to right
You've been a coward in the fight!

VOLUME 2 **"BAXTER COUNTY ANCESTORS"**

We are still accepting Pedigree & Family group charts of families with Baxter County connections for Volume 2. You may submit Corrections and Additions to the info submitted and printed in Volume 1. Just mark your charts as "Corrected" or "Supplemented" Mail yours to the Editor soon.

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OUR 23RD YEAR

1997 marks the 23rd year that the Baxter County Historical & Genealogical Society has been in existence. From the humble start by the founding members, the goal has remained the same without wavering. "To preserve the History of Baxter County". The years has seen the Society under the stewardship of many officers. Each has dedicated themselves to the same goal. This new year under the direction of Judy Sharp is no different. The Society still is striving to preserve the history of our county.

The Society still is honoring its pledge to preserve the oldest building in Mountain Home, The Casey House, the residence and store of Randolph Casey, one of Rapps Barrens' (now Mountain Home) pioneer family. The building is still in remarkable condition despite the many years since it was built in 1858.

A listing of the Society's many efforts in the preserving of the County's hisotry, would take much space. But in the past few years, the Society has taken on more difficult tasks. With the acquisition of the historic Rollins Hospital Building in Gassville, and with another pledge from the membership, the renovation and repairs to the building is progressing. Upon its completion, Baxter County will have a museum to house many of its historic relics.

Rapps Barren Pioneer Park, located in a secluded corner of Cooper Park in Mountain Home, is another tribute to the members of the Baxter County Historical Society, who, with scant assets, other than their dedication to preserve the county's history, began to again save another old structure of the county's past. The Talburt-Leonard Log Cabin, which had emerged from the front room of the historic Leonard Home on College street required salvaging from the demolition crew. Through the Society's effort and with many fund raisers, the salvage, relocation and reconstruction of the log cabin was realized. Now the Rapps Barren Pioneer Park has grown to include the "Shot-Gun" House which was relocated from the Casey House site to the Park.

The next step the Society has undertaken for Rapps Barren Pioneer Park, is planned for the foreseeable future. The acquiring of a Country School Building, long sought by our Society's fund raiser chairman, Becky Baker, is now undergoing the final planning. The School building will occupy a site across trail from the Log Cabin in the Settlement.

To accomplish the move, the Society needs all the help of the members, and members of our community. The moving and reconstruction of the School building is costly and funds are badly needed to see this portion of the Pioneer Park project to completion.

We are appealing for funds to complete the park and to assist in the reconstruction of the Rollins Hospital Building. We know that many of our society can not assist in the physical work involved so we ask each to review their finances and if possible make a donation to assist us. Donations to our projects qualify as tax deductible donations. Donations may be made to the *Mountain Home Chamber Foundation,*

Cabin Fund, % Mountain Home Chamber of Commerce, Highway 62 East, Mountain Home, AR 72653.

Donations may also be forwarded to any official of the Society.

Lets keep preserving the History of the County.

—Gene Garr

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**A soft answer
Turns wrath away**

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THE PRESIDENT'S LIBRARY

With the funding of \$4.5 million being added to the project in 1995 by the State of Mississippi, the Jefferson Davis library is becoming a reality. The only president of the short-lived Confederate States of America, Jefferson Davis (1808-1889) is honored as are many of his contemporaries, U. S. Presidents.

The Library is located on the President's "Beauvoir", the Davis' estate at Biloxie, Mississippi. Davis spent his last years here writing his Civil War Memoirs.

The Library's compound consists of a 13,500 square foot building and features his life and turbulent term of office, a reference library and archives. Opening date is expected in June 1997.

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**The key to success is setting aside
eight hours a day for work and
eight hours for sleep
Make sure they're not the same hours**

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**To ignore an insults is the true
test of moral courage.**

HOW PAPER WAS MADE IN 1896

Paper made from rags; after the rags used in the manufacture of paper have been ground to a pulp, caustic lye is mixed with the product, in order to reduce the small, hard particles that are found in the pulp, and which, if left, would make knots in the paper.

Straw intended for the manufacture of paper is chopped very fine and boiled a long time at a high temperature with caustic soda in order to remove the resinous and gummy elements contained in the material, which would impair the quality of the product.

In "machine sizing," that is the sizing of paper by a machine process, a solution of gelatin is employed. The quality of the gelatin used depends upon the kind of paper to be made. For the finest qualities of note paper the best grades of gelatin must be employed.

The cane which grows in 'brakes' along the Southern Mississippi, in Alabama, Georgia, Florida and almost all the southern states, is capable of being manufactured into an excellent article of paper, and a number of factories have been started which make cane paper.

The paper used in American national bank notes and greenbacks is of a superior quality, and by a secret process where minute threads of red and blue silk are distributed over the surface, the incorporation of these with the fabric being an additional safeguard against counterfeiting. Counterfeiters have been able to imitate almost every other peculiar feature of the bank note, but have never succeeded with the threads.

Patents have been taken out for the manufacture of paper from a very great variety of substances, among them being acacia, lathes, aloe, artichoke, asparagus, aspen, bamboo, banana

skin, bass wood, bean vines, blue grass, broom corn, buckwheat straw, bulrushes, cane, cattail, cedar, china-grass, clematis, clover, corn husks, cotton, couch grass, cork, elder, elm, esparto grass, ferns, fir, flags, flax, grapevine, grasses, hemp, hop, chestnut, indigo, jute, mulberry bark, oak, oakum, oat straw, palm, palmetto, pampas grass, papyrus leaves, palm, plantain, poplar, potato rags, reeds, rice straw, rope, sedge grass, rye, silk, sorghum, spruce, thistles, tobacco, wheat straw, waste paper, willow and wool.

The papyrus used by the ancient Egyptians was made from the stems of a peculiar water reed growing in all parts of Egypt. The outside layers of the plant was removed and beneath this there was found a number of layers of a delicate, pithy membrane. These being separated were placed in layers; a second layer was laid at right angles to and above the first, and sometimes a third over the second. Heavy pressure was then applied and the layers were firmly cemented into a fair article of paper. No gum other than what was contained in the plant itself was used in the process. The papyrus was very much stronger than the average paper made by the modern machines. The sheets were commonly made from 6 to twelve inches square

The Howell County News Feb 4 1896

Tales of Wolf Hunt and Other Incidents.

One of Marion County's pioneers was Uncle Brice Milum, son of Samuel and Anna [McCann] Milum. Brice was born November 6 1822 in Hickman County, Tennessee. His parents moved to Crooked creek in 1844. They died many years ago and were buried in the Milum Cemetery on Crooked creek 4 or 5 miles below Harrison AR. His father reached the age of 90 years. Uncle

Brice lived for a number of years near the present village of Powell, Marion Co., AR, where he farmed and hunted. Here he formed the acquaintance of many settlers living far and near, and they often hunted together, and chased and killed the large packs of wolves and other animals. After a few years residence on the farm, Uncle Brice moved to Yellville, where he engaged in the mercantile business. In the latter 1860s he moved to Lead Hill.

Thomas Milum, son of Uncle Brice enlisted in 1862 in the Confederate service, Co. A., 27th Reg., ARK. Inf and died in Little Rock in 1863. The grief stricken father went all the way from Yellville to Little Rock, a distance of 150 miles, in a wagon and brought his son's remains to Yellville and interred it in the local cemetery.

While Uncle Brice was living near the Powell Post office, he enjoyed the sport of killing turkeys as well as deer. He could sit in his door yard and call turkeys within 50 yards of the house and shoot them.

On a certain occasion he saw a large closely packed flock of turkeys, his single barrel shot gun was well loaded and he sent the contents among the flock, with the result that six big, fat turkeys were dead. In hunting for deer, he said that he shot and killed three while standing in one spot, and he has seen as many as 40 in one herd. He says he remembers killing a doe in 1847 that weighed 110 pounds dressed.

In relating peculiar incidents of hunting he said that he once saw a fine buck standing quietly within rifle range, he shot, and at the report of the gun the deer ran away. Thinking he might have wounded it, he went to the spot where the deer had been standing to see if there was any blood stains on the ground. To his surprise there lay a dead deer, within a few feet of where the one was standing he shot at. There

was no question but that he had shot at one deer and killed another. While Mr. Milum was relating these brief sketches his eyes fairly shone with delight as it called to his memory the happy pioneer days.

In giving his experience with fat bear that once inhabited Marion county, he said that one day Jim Shelton and himself killed three on Music creek, one was killed in a cave, the other two had climbed trees and they were shot. The one taken from the cave dressed 450 pounds, and the other two each 800 pounds, a total of 1250 pounds.

In '59 and '60, Henry Onstatt, kept a drug store in Yellville. He collected rare specimens of Frogs, lizards, serpents, spiders and centipedes, and kept them in large glass jars filled with alcohol. Among the collections was an enormous centipede which was of such unusual size that it made ones flesh crawl to look at it. This centipede was captured on Jimmies creek by Bert Music. The monster measured 18 inches in length, and was the largest centipede this writer ever saw.

Mr. Milum said that in 1853 while Elisha Dotson and himself were plowing one day, they heard a peculiar noise, and on investigating they saw a rattlesnake charming a rabbit. When they discovered them they were six feet apart, the serpent was four feet long, and was stretched at full length and closely watching its victim. The latter was uttering a distressing noise and slowly moving toward the snake. When the powerless rabbit was within a few inches of the rattler's head, we were surprised to see it topple over. When we went up and killed the snake, the rabbit was dead. We were both satisfied that the snake did not touch the rabbit and we believed the serpent had a power to fill by charms, or something of the kind.

"In regards to wolves", said uncle Brice, "They were quite numerous on

Crooked creek. The settlers had to keep a constant watch and war, to prevent them from destroying sheep, hogs and calves. Our methods of killing them was by shooting, poisoning, trapping and catching them in pens. In 1848, Jim Shelton, Sol Woods, Jeff Woods and my self set a date to get rid of a bunch of wolves that lived in the bluff at the mouth of Sugar Orchard creek. When the day arrived we were ready and entered the bluff with six dogs, a flint-lock rifle each and a good supply of ammunition.

We were determined to clean up the pack. It was not long after passing into the bluff, before we struck seven wolves, an old one and six cubs as large as full grown foxes, the fun began at once. It was the hardest and merriest day hunt for wolves that I ever experienced. The dogs chased them to and fro in the bluff nearly all day before we succeeded in killing all of them. We climbed, leaped and crawled

up and down precipices from 7 to 10 feet high. The first ones killed were three of the cubs. Then the dogs caught the old one and stretched her out on the ground, but she got up in spite of the dogs and escaped for the time. Very soon after this I saw her about 100 yards from where I was stationed and I shot her. We then soon killed the three remaining cubs. Probably no hunter worked more faithful or had more amusement than we did that day. When our work was done we had the pleasure of knowing that bunch of wolves would not bother our stock any more. The color of the young wolves was about equally between gray and black. An examination of the old one proved that she had been black, but age had colored a part of her hair white, but "the most astonishing thing", remarked uncle Brice, as he finished the story, "she was so old that there was not a tooth in her mouth"

—adapted from the Mountain Echo, October 19, 1900

Fiddlers of the Good Old Days

By John Q. Wolf - Baxter Bulletin Nov 15 1933

When I was a boy there were no violins in the Leatherwood mountains - only fiddles. The country fiddler was an important person. He was looked upon with as much respect and dignity as was the country parson. Every community had a fiddler. Their vocabulary of tunes was rather limited, but they played the tunes like a house afire.

In the fall and winter there would be an occasional dance at the home of some citizen, and everybody in the community who wanted to attend invited himself. Only the old-fashioned square dance was indulged in. The fiddler would bring his fiddle and bow tied up in a pillow case. Pretty girls and those nimble on their feet were in

demand and would get to dance nearly every "set" while ugly, clumsy girls [if any] would be neglected. Some obliging young man would get two steel knitting needles and beat a tattoo on the fiddle strings while the fiddler was playing. This enhanced the music and to put life and metal into the heels of the dancers.

I recall a dance at the home of Dr. Charlie Benbrook, in the Lone Rock neighborhood, that was full of interest.

Mr. Reynolds was the only fiddler within a radius of 10 miles. He had a grown daughter named Emma, who had lost one of her hands in a sorghum mill, leaving an unsightly stub. Emma loved to dance and always came to the dances with her father. But the young men shunned her as a partner because

they did not like to "swing your partner and all promenade" with the stub arm.

The dance had been in full swing for an hour or so, when the fiddler quit playing and tied up his fiddle and bow in the pillow slip. The young men gathered about him and protested vigorously and called his attention to the fact that it was still early in the night. They asked him for an explanation and got none. In sullen silence he continued to tie up the pillow case. Dow Harris quickly sensed the problem. He went to the fiddlers daughter and asked her to dance with him. She promptly accepted and they stepped out on the floor. In a rather loud voice Harris begged the old man to "give us just one more tune; we want to dance one more set." Mr. Reynolds looked up and seeing his daughter, who had been neglected up to that time, standing beside Harris. He promptly took out his fiddle and bow, tuned and rosined his bow, took a chew of tobacco and lit into some of the liveliest dance music that ever heard. Before "the set" ended, the other young men had held a caucus outside and bound themselves, by compact, they would take turns dancing with Emma, notwithstanding the stub arm. The almost danced her to death, and likewise worked her father almost to death, for he gave them fast and furious music until the wee small hours. Everybody went home happy as larks and praising Harris for his delicate diplomacy.

The country fiddler's program of tunes consisted principally of "Mandy Lockett, Devil's Dream, Rye Straw, Arkansas Traveler, Old Molly Hare, Soldier's Joy, Fisherman's Hornpipe, the White Cockade and Old Dan Tucker."

During the evening three young men from the north side of the river dropped in. One of them was a stranger.

While the revelers were resting between sets, giving the fiddler and his

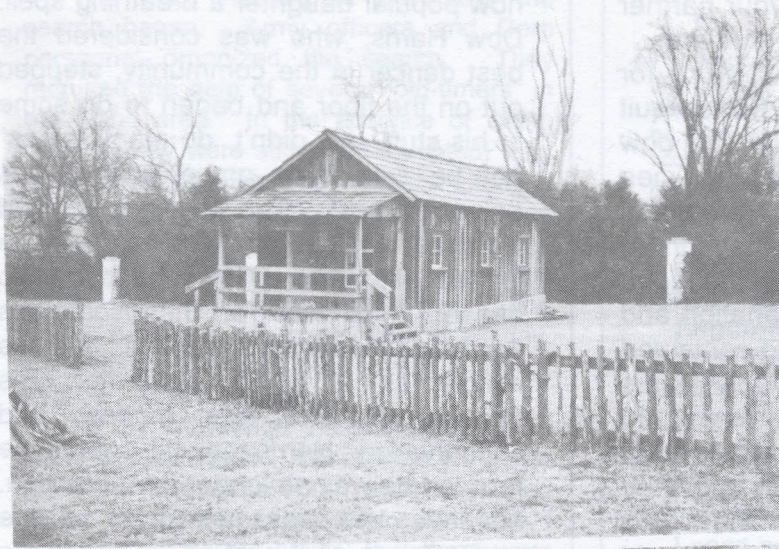
now popular daughter a breathing spell, Dow Harris, who was considered the best dancer in the community, stepped out on the floor and began to do some of his stuff. He didn't do many "steps" but he was fairly graceful, and was doing his best. The stranger sat and watched him for ten minutes, then he leaped out into the floor and began to dance. He was as handsome as Apollo, exceedingly graceful and as nimble as a circus performer. His dancing at first was modest and conservative. Harris took his seat as he realized he was no longer the attraction. Moreover, he was entranced by the performance of this stranger, who was now warming up and putting on some wonderful dancing. His performance was some-what like Rubenstein's playing the piano; some times soft and almost noiseless, his body nearly motionless, but his feet would be going like lightning; then he would suddenly break out into a veritable storm of activity, ending up in a breath-taking climax, back an forward, this side then that, up and down, now almost perfectly still, now every muscle of his body in action, his feet keeping perfect time and working in perfect rhythm; now he would execute a double-shuffle," "cut the pigeon's wing", the like of which we had never seen before.

When he was about to end his exhibition Mr. Reynolds seized his fiddle and played "The Arkansas Traveler" for him, putting every bit of fire and energy he had into it, and the dancer responded. He danced the life out of that lively and inspiring old tune. He won the admiration all..

He was Ruffs P. Jones, of Texas. He became a citizen of IZARD county, marrying a daughter of the late Capt. R. C. Matthews of Pineville. He died a few years ago at his home near Calico Rock.

--Baxter Bulletin Nov 15 1933

DOINGS IN RAPPS BARREN PIONEER SETTLEMENT



← NEW FENCE IN FRONT OF THE SHOT GUN-HOUSE



CIVIL WAR REENACTORS
IN ACTION



← HEADQUARTERS IN THE TALBURT/LEONARD CABIN

HISTORICAL AND BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES
FROM THE YELLVILLE, ARKANSAS "MOUNTAIN ECHO"
BY A. C. Jeffrey

Early Settlement of the White River Valley
(Originally written for the "Melbourne Clipper" in 1877)

Jahu Falenash, being the first settler on White River, was for a time a law unto himself and monarch of all he surveyed. He devoted himself to hunting and fishing. The sound of the church going bell never saluted his ears, nor the whistle of the steam engine upon the river ever disturbed the quiet of his mind. Thus he drifted on the tide of time toward eternity, almost as he lived, as the wild animals on which he made war. In the spring of 1820, he went up stream in a canoe as far as the Big North Fork, and whilst on this excursion, a flood in upper White River, and his loved ones at home being in a low country, he set sail on a high tide to look after them and his cabin. On his voyage down the river he reported the river was from hill to hill. This was the first over flow in the river on which we have any account.

A period of ten years elapsed from the time Jahu took possession of White River, which found a few others—a few hard pioneers—whose object was to hunt and trap. Ben Bryant, a wandering Portuguese, took possession of the Big North Fork and its tributaries. "Big Teen" Augustine and "Little Teen" Friend came to the river and settled, one of them at the mouth of Friends Creek, near the John Quincy Adams place, the other near the mouth of Buffalo. Jake and Sol Yocham settled and took possession of the river above this. Lin and Jo Coker and the Peter Sneeds, at the mouth of Widman's Creek, Jonathan and Bill Iron settled at the Hunt place below Twin Creek and John Carter, a very singular character, settled a short distance above Mount Olive. John Carter was a native of Virginia, educated to the law, full of wit and humor and apparent fine ability, wound his way into the wilderness and set down to raise his family on a dirt floor. His trait of character may be better understood by the following anecdote: Carter and Irons, living ten miles apart, were close neighbors for those days.

It seems they had a falling out, and Iron accused Carter and his son Bill of making counterfeit money, and Carter in turn accused Irons of stealing his meat. Carter learned the men were not at home at Irons and went down. On approaching the door, he saluted the women, "Good morning, ladies, cool day, I believe I'll take a seat, and warm." Not a woman spoke. Carter seated himself looking around the cabin he discovered a piece of bacon hanging up in the boards of the cabin roof, the manner in those days of saving bacon. Carter commented in a low humming tune to himself, and "My Billy come out of the kings, yet if that silver mine goes on, heh he" and casting his eyes up, he continued, "There hangs some of my hog's bacon, heh, he," This was too much for the Iron women to stand. They arose in force with sticks in hand and drove John Carter from their cabin.

As late as the year 1831, a desperate man named Abb Garrison, roamed the Valley of the White River from head to mouth. He had killed men in different localities and was a terror to the country. Near the mouth of Little North Fork, a man named Bevins lived. Abb passed there one day and called Bevins to the fence and shot him dead, riding off with a laugh, like he had played a joke. Below the mouth of the White River, lived a Mississippi man, named Comble. Abb and Comble had words and a combat took place between them with the intent of both to take each others life. As Abb attempted to snatch his pistol, he hung in the case. Comble seized him by the collar with one hand and run a Bowie knife through Abb's body, who fell dead at the spot.

The termination of this affray was received with joy throughout the valley of the White River.

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