

Baxter County History



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

FEATURING:
Rapp's Barren Pioneer
Settlement and much more

Volume 25-2
April, May, June
1999

Published by
THE BAXTER COUNTY HISTORICAL
& GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

The Baxter County History

Volume 25, Number 2

April, May, June – 1999

<i>About the Society</i>	Page 37
<i>From the Editor</i>	Page 38
<i>What Happened At Our Meetings</i>	Page 39
<i>Where Our Money Goes</i>	Page 40
<i>The Mountain Home Cemetery</i> Do you have someone here? Your help is needed!	Page 41
<i>Mary Ann Speaks to Cumberland Presbyterian Women's Group</i> A rare treat – and we've got it for you!	Page 42
<i>The American Indian Center and the Trail of Tears</i> Paul Austin spoke to our June meeting.	Page 45
<i>Rapp's Barren Pioneer Settlement</i> By Gene Garr	Page 49
<i>Oak Grove Baptist Church</i> As told by Stella Jackson	Page 58
<i>George Washington Jones</i> By Stella Jackson	Page 61
<i>Officers and Board of Directors</i> Contact information about the Society.	Page 64

About the Society

Our objective is to promote and maintain popular interest in the history of Baxter County, Arkansas, and to acquire, restore, preserve, and maintain things pertaining to the history of Baxter County for the benefit and education of the general public.

We are funded by the generosity of others, to include dues, fund-raising events, support from the Baxter County Quorum Court, and donations. We are tax exempt, which means donations can be made directly to us (BCHGS) and will be tax deductible.

Annual membership dues are \$15 for individuals and \$25 for member and spouse. Dues are payable on membership anniversary dates. Correspondence concerning membership dues, back issues of this newsletter, and other business matters should be addressed to our treasurer, Stella Jackson, 455 CR 619, Mountain Home, Arkansas 72653.

Contributions of material for this newsletter are always appreciated and should be sent to Editor, The History, P.O. Box 1611, Mountain Home, Arkansas, 72654. E-mail address is sonny@thehistorybook.com.

Meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of each month at locations throughout the county. Meetings are announced as community news in the Baxter Bulletin and on local radio stations and Mountain Home cable Channel 5. For more information call any of the officers or board members.

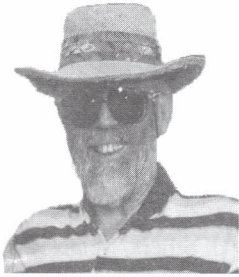
The Baxter County History is published quarterly in Mountain Home, Arkansas, by

The Baxter County Historical and Genealogical Society

PO Box 1611

Mountain Home, Arkansas 72654-1611

From the Editor



Greetings to all.
In my formative years I was fortunate to be a member of our local 4-H club. There were several clubs in the area, and our name was the "Willing Workers." Mom Sharp was our leader, and we usually

met at the Oakland Wing School on Highway 62 East. Our membership was made up of kids from the school who lived between town and the lake. In addition to individual projects, we regularly did things for our community. Our group success was directly related to our individual efforts, and a lot got done. I haven't been around that circumstance for quite a while -- until now.

This issue will highlight a lot getting done by our society, and some of our members who are making things happen. Lots of detail will be included for our members who live away from here and aren't able to be directly involved.

We also have a special feature about the Mountain Home Cemetery. Please read and support.

Many folks know our member, Mary Ann Messick, her exploits around her beloved Monkey Run Community and her book *History of Baxter County*. Folks may not know that she is also a delightful after dinner speaker. The Cumberland Presbyterian women found out as they listened to Mary Ann address their April meeting. We were able to pick up some of her remarks and are pleased to bring them to you. I wish there was a way to give you the laughter, applause and just plain enjoyment that was shared by the ladies. I hope you will enjoy the next best thing.

Our member, Bill Woodiel, has worked for many months with a variety of organizations and individuals to raise awareness of the Trail

of Tears. Cherokee and several other Indian tribes were forcibly relocated from their ancestral homes in the southeast part of this country to newly designated Indian Territory in Oklahoma. Bill has worked tirelessly to help certify one of the routes used which passed through Baxter County. This is significant, as the National Park Service administers the Trail of Tears as a national historic route, and their certification of the "Benge route" through here would bring national recognition to this area. Bill has worked with the National Trail of Tears Association and their secretary, Paul Austin, also Executive Director of the American Indian Center in Little Rock. Mr. Austin spoke to our June meeting about the work of the Indian center and their efforts to support certification of all routes of the Trail of Tears. His visit was also covered by *The Baxter Bulletin* and radio station KTLO. Excerpts of his remarks are included for your enjoyment.

It is hard to visit our special project, **Rapp's Barren Pioneer Settlement**, without developing a real appreciation of local history and sacrifices our forefathers made to develop this wonderful part of the world. Rapp's Barren is featured in this issue to tell folks about the settlement and, more importantly, how it got there looking like that. Our member, Gene Garr, has been the driving force behind today's Rapp's Barren and has provided a detailed history of key events in almost journal form. Read on and enjoy, and I believe you will agree that words fall short in describing what Gene and a small circle of folks have accomplished for the enjoyment of future generations.

Several articles in this issue will involve our member, Stella Jackson. She donated the Shady Grove School building, the pump in its yard, and provided much of its history. Yes, she was a former student. Her late husband, Kenneth, was part of the family that produced the Johnnie Jones cabin, and Stella provided its history. One might suspect that any substantial local history will have Stella involved somehow. No one is more appreciated.

What happened at our meetings

Our April meeting was the last one we will have at the old AP & L building in Mtn. Home till the Fall and the cooler months resume. In May we began meeting in various locations throughout the county to better enjoy the beauty of this area and meet new friends.

April was a meeting to remember. We had the largest attendance in quite some time, to include a number of folks from the resort community of Lake Norfolk. The program was the construction of Norfolk

Dam and the creation of Norfolk Lake. Kevin Hedgepeth of the local Corps of Engineers presented a narrated series of still pictures that showed remarkable photos of the dam site throughout construction from October 1940 to June 1944. Also the clearing of areas in what would become the lake was shown.

Many buildings were torn down and used for construction elsewhere. Cemeteries were moved. The town of Henderson was relocated from the west side of the North Fork River to higher ground on the East side of the lake. Kevin is a young man, but presented detailed knowledge befitting an old-timer, especially during the question and answer session that followed. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the presentation and also perused a large group of 50+-year-old pictures of goings on throughout the area during that period.

Other discussion included the nomination of our President, Charles Blackburn, to the State Review Committee for Historic



Hank Harvey of KTLO and Bob Underhill share gems of wisdom while Marie Marler and Lonnie Chapman eye the goodies in the buffet line at a recent meeting in Gassville.

Preservation. This is significant as that body has much to do with approval of historic sites throughout Arkansas, and it could be very helpful to this area to have one of our own on the board.

Elvan Hudson reported that over 320 hours of community service labor were applied at the hospital museum in Gassville during April.

Gene Garr reported satisfactory progress on the Jones cabin, the latest addition to the Rapp's

Barren Pioneer Settlement. It was announced informally that the dispute involving the Wolf House had finally been resolved with the county taking title to the Wolf House, surrounding grounds, and the annex from the city of Norfolk and the Wolf House Foundation. The formal announcement was made in the local media the next morning.

In **May** we got together for a pot luck dinner in the renovated Shady Grove School house in Rapp's Barren Pioneer Settlement in Cooper Park, Mountain Home. Business included an update by Kevin Bodenhamer of the local Civil War re-enactors (Wiggins' Battery) on their performance at Norfolk Pioneer Days. A memorial service will be conducted at a very old cemetery at Sage, near Melbourne, in June.

Bill Woodiel discussed his further efforts to certify the Cherokee Trail of Tears route through Baxter County. He invited Paul Austin, Executive Director of the American Indian Center in Little Rock to speak at our

June meeting. Jessie Weese, a graduate student from the University of Arkansas was introduced and outlined his efforts to develop a research paper on early life along the local rivers.

The program was the Rapp's Barren Pioneer Settlement. Gene Garr and Stella Jackson provided a wealth of information that will be featured elsewhere in this newsletter.

In **June** we met for a pot luck dinner at the Rollins Hospital Museum at Gassville. Business included introduction of the group of architecture students working on a special project for community improvements at Cotter.

Charles Blackburn showed the membership a lovely Waterford crystal bowl that had been donated to the society by Mary and Bill Schoonover for use as a fund-raiser.

Gene Garr discussed further progress at the Jones cabin, the newest addition to our Rapp's Barren Settlement, and also mentioned he would be giving local college history

students a tour of the Casey House and Rapp's Barren on June 25th.

Elvan Hudson discussed further work on the museum and folks enjoyed the opportunity to walk through and look around.

Kevin Bodenhamer announced the July meeting would be very special, aboard the local White River Railway. The meeting will also be pot luck, and members should plan to board at 6 p.m. at Flippin.

The program was presented by Paul Austin, National Secretary of the Trail of Tears Association and Executive Director of the American Indian Center at Little Rock. He described the work of the center and their relationship to the National Park Service in working for certification of the routes traveled by the Cherokee and other tribes. His presentation was excellent and is featured elsewhere in this newsletter.

Where our money goes

As an active, non-profit organization our need for money never stops. Income was highlighted by proceeds from our garage sale at the armory in April of \$885.36. Most notable expenditures totaled over \$5000 for the quarter

in support of restoration of our special projects, Rollins Hospital Museum in Gassville, and Rapp's Barren Pioneer Settlement at Cooper Park in Mountain. Home. As always, much remains to be done.

April beginning balance brought forward				\$17,542.93
Income	April	May	June	
Interest	35.00	25.40		
Dues	190.00	95.00	55.00	
Sales	1,322.36	254.00	168.00	
Donations	132.50	50.00		
Total	1,679.86	424.40	223.00	
Expenses				
Building restoration	3,625.00	2,796.84	513.75	
Postage/Printing	85.50	719.12		
Utilities	6.53	6.53	6.53	
Miscellaneous	50.00	25.00		
Total	3,767.03	3,547.49	520.28	
June Ending Balance				\$12,035.39

The Mountain Home Cemetery

By Judi Ramey Sharp

During the past 40 years, Mountain Home has changed so much that it is almost unrecognizable as the lovely little town where I grew up. Thankfully, though, there's one place that hasn't changed a bit – except for the new wrought iron fence. It's the old Mountain Home Cemetery.

Do you have folks buried there? Mary Ann Messick in *The History of Baxter County - Centennial Edition* says:

The Mountain Home Cemetery is located several blocks south of the square. The first acre was deeded by Mrs. Catherine Casey Paul in 1874, and her husband, Milas Paul born 1826, died 1874, was the first buried there. Additional ground has been purchased or donated three times. This is the largest cemetery in the county and receives perpetual care through the Mountain Home Cemetery Association. Many of the county's pioneers are buried here in this lovely hilltop place: members of the Alley, Baker, Bodenhamer, Bucher, Bryant, Casey, Dyer, Eatman, Haley, Hickman, Jones, Leonard, Love, Livingston, Martin, Messick, Morris, Paul, Russell, Schoggen and Wolf families. Sheriff A. G. Byler, the first sheriff killed in the line of duty, is buried here.

And, of course, many, many more whom we recognize as ancestors of members of our Society -- Cody, Davis, Howard, Hurst, McClure, Mooney, Nelson, Palenske, Patillo, Pitchford, Stinnett, Tanner, Tilley, Tipton, Tracy, Truman, and Walker.

For many years, the 20th Century Club, a federated women's club, took the responsibility for the care of the cemetery. Later, the Mountain Home Cemetery Association was formed. The purpose of the Association is to see to the care of the cemetery and sell lots so that others, newcomers as well as old timers, may rest here in this peaceful place. With the addition of newly purchased land to the West several years ago, there will be plenty of space for many

years.

When we have a resource such as this – not only beautiful, but historically important to our county – we sometimes tend to take it for granted. Even those of us who are so interested in history and genealogy are guilty of visiting the grave sites of our family members, of generations long gone, and then leaving, giving not even a second thought to the thing which enables it to remain beautiful.



Looking toward the oldest part of the cemetery from near the northwest entrance.

That thing, of course, is money.

During the last fiscal year, which ended on April 30, 1999, fewer than 20 donations were made to the Cemetery Association, and those donations totaled less than \$1000. When it costs \$350 to mow one time, that \$1000 doesn't go far!

So right now, while your memory is jogged, please write a check to the Mountain Home Cemetery Association for whatever amount you can afford. Send your check to Dorothy Alley, who is the secretary of the Association, at 1152 East 9th Street, Mountain Home, AR 72653.

Do it for your ancestors, who came here so long ago and made such a fine place to raise a family.

Do it for your great-grandchildren who will someday come to visit the graves of those same ancestors – maybe they'll visit you, too.

And do it for yourself. It's our turn, now, to take care of this special place.

Mary Ann Speaks to Presbyterian Women's Group

Our member, Mary Ann Messick, addressed a special meeting of district Cumberland Presbyterian Church Women and left no doubt she is as delightful an after dinner speaker as she is an author. The theme of the meeting was "Precious Memories," and the following excerpts of her remarks are provided for your enjoyment.

"I should feel at home in a Cumberland Presbyterian Church, because way back in Tennessee the Messicks were Cumberland Presbyterians. I like to travel back over the miles and through the ages, and when I think of a Cumberland Presbyterian Church I think of a little log church deep in the mountains lit by candles or rush lamps where my ancestor worshiped many years ago.

"When I was sworn in as postmaster at Gassville it was my pleasure, it was my honor to place my hand on the Bible that had belonged to my great, great uncle Cumberland Presbyterian minister E. Henry Messick.

"I feel very much at home with this group, and I was very happy to meet here with some of my McNeill relatives from Calico Rock. When I see people from IZARD County I tell them my grandmother was a McNeill. They often tell me the same thing in return. There must have been a lot of McNeill grandmothers.

"In the song *Precious Memories* either the third or fourth verse says,

*In the stillness of the midnight
Echoes from the past I hear
Old time singing, gladness bringing,
From that lovely land somewhere.*

"Some of my most precious, most treasured memories are from church because I was raised in church. My dad was a Baptist preacher.

"I can remember at the big meetings,

especially during the war years, we had the mourners' bench. During altar call, the ones wanting to be saved would go up to the mourners' bench. The mourners' bench was old hand hewn benches from the Masonic lodge up at the old school house. They were so uncomfortable that I guess the idea was the mourners weren't going to sit on them very long.

"I can remember when my dad or the visiting evangelist would give the altar call and during the war years some of the young men would go up. I remember one night falling asleep on the benches. and shouting about midnight woke me up. A young man had been saved so we hurried home, got up early the next morning, and loaded up in daddy's old car (Old Mabel) and headed down to Carson Creek to baptize him. He was leaving on the train that afternoon for overseas duty.

"I remember back in the days when there was 'shouting' breaking out at the big meetings. We called protracted meetings, called revivals now, 'big meetings.' They usually lasted about two weeks, and there was a lot of shouting going on. I don't know what would have happened to us if we had lived through that now.

"After the first recess (at school) the teacher would march the boys and girls two-by-two from the school down to the church and we would attend a revival meeting. This was away from our lessons on school time. I know many an adult today that was saved during those times.

"A lot of the little kids were scared of the shouting. There was one lady who dearly loved to shout. The little kids would hide under the benches.

"I didn't realize how kids were about adults, till I became one. Recently we brought a load of young people in on the church van for prayer meeting. They looked out and saw that a

"I didn't realize how kids were about adults until I became one."

certain lady was there and I heard two young boys say to each other, 'Oh good, she always cries when she asks for prayer requests.'

"We all began to notice this lady with her shouting and she would get just deliriously happy and always fall into the arms of the best looking man there. But, she didn't return the favor.

"This poor old homely man got happy one night and shouted. He could be described as so ugly he had to slip up on a dipper to get a drink. When he was born, instead of slapping him, the doctor probably slapped the mother.

"One night, he got happy and began to shout. Back in those days the women sat on one side of the church and the men on the other. Someone had already gotten saved and the men had shaken hands with them. It was the women's turn and when this fellow broke lose with his shouting he would fall into the first ones arms. She would simply pass him down the line of women until he got to the shouting lady. She gave him a shove and pushed him into the piano. My mother told me she never heard such a bang, and boy did that break up that fellow's shouting.

"When my daddy was the pastor at Pilgrim's Rest, everybody had one of those individual fans. Funeral homes gave them out; companies gave them out; politicians gave them out; so everybody had one of those fans -- well nearly everybody. Some of the ladies would have a fancy fan while some would have a big palm leaf fan.

"You could judge a lady's character by how she used her fan. One big hearted lady had a big palm leaf fan and, boy, when she fanned she would fan the whole row. Ladies with the little prissy fans didn't. There was one fellow that always hurried in late. He took a short cut through the woods but never made it on time. He would be late so he would always have to sit on the very front seat. He'd be hot and sweaty

by the time he got there and he never had a fan. He would sit there and breath heavily till he cooled down a bit. Then the ticks would start

working on him. He would sit there and roll up his pant legs and be popping those ticks all during the sermon.

"As soon as the altar call was given and the

sinner went to the mourners' bench, it was almost like a primeval urge for certain ladies in the church -- the deacons' wives, Aunt Belle Messick, Aunt Viola Marler, Aunt Viola Martin, Aunt Varea Carson, Miss Oma Young - - to raise up with their fans and fan that poor sinner as long as he was wrestling with the devil. The kids would say they ought to not be fanning. They ought to let them feel the heat of hell. They might get saved a little bit quicker. When a fellow would get saved the shouting would break loose.

"The church at Pilgrim's Rest was organized in 1872. I feel like this is a great tribute to my forefathers and settlers at Pilgrim's Rest because that area -- the Monkey Run community -- was so devastated by the Civil War. There were no great battles but the bushwhackers did their worst. Until I wrote the History of Baxter County I didn't realize how many families had their man killed by bushwhackers. Yet, in less than ten years after the war that community had grown and prospered to the point that they wanted a church of their own. They organized the Pilgrim's Rest Baptist Church.

"I can barely remember the original frame building. In my memory, cherished memories of that church, the interior was like a lot of old churches in England and on the East coast. They were very dark inside, and everything was stained walnut. The pews, pulpit, and railing around the choir loft were stained and looked sacred to me.

"The building burned in 1938. What a blow that was to the community still recovering

"It was almost like a primeval urge for certain ladies . . . to raise up their fans and fan that poor sinner as long as he was wrestling with the devil."

from the depression. The men, the boys, the women and the girls all just pulled together and went to work. The women would piece quilts and have quilt raffles. There were musicals and ice cream suppers where a dish of ice cream and a glass of lemonade would each be a nickel.

"They built the church with the most plentiful material in Arkansas that doesn't cost anything. They went over to the river bluff and quarried out flat rocks to build the church. All the labor was donated except for \$40 that was paid to a stone mason to oversee the labor. Every man, woman, or child from the community, whether they attended that church or not, pitched in and helped. There was one Catholic family in the community and that man and boy came and worked and one day the woman brought a big basket of potato donuts to serve to the workers.

"Many of the young men, waiting for their call to go into the service, would come down there to work and built a lot of furniture for the church. My young uncle was waiting for his call to the air corps, and he was given the task of picking a verse and painting it on the front door. The verse he chose was from the Psalm "I was glad when they said unto me let us go into the house of the Lord." That door was repainted many times but you could always see the original lettering. Today is the 55th anniversary of the death of my uncle in WW II.

"Your tables are beautifully decorated. You can come out to my house and go through and you could decorate your tables from my house.

"I live in the house where I was born. Seventy one years ago my daddy paid \$35 for an old store building down at Monkey Run. He tore it down, hauled it up the hill and built a four room bungalow and that's where I still live. People have told me I should build a new house. I don't want a new house, I want my daddy's

"They built the church with the most plentiful material in Arkansas that doesn't cost anything. They went over to the river bluff and quarried out flat rocks."

house. In it I've got daddy's treasures, my mother's treasures, my uncle's treasures, and mine -- all my historical articles and collections of every kind. I would hire some one to help

clean my house, but I would have to clean it up first.

"Memories are so precious. If I can't sleep at night I can just lay there and think about the family. I had three sisters and I can hear us all saying good night to each other. I eat at the dining table that my mother and daddy bought second hand seventy one years ago. I have the bed where three of us girls were born.

"I'm surrounded by all these cherished memories, but the memories of church seem to stand out greater in my mind than any of the others. We had such wonderful times at church and we still do. I enjoyed the singing here tonight. And this young lady, I enjoyed your singing and the singing of Amazing Grace. That must be everyone's favorite and we call that our theme song out at Pilgrim's Rest.

"You all ought to come out there some time. We're going to invite the historical society out there again sometime. Only the Gassville and Mountain Home Baptist Churches are older than the one at Pilgrim's Rest. The church and school and everything connected to that community are so precious to me.

"I remember the square in Mountain Home where we all used to gather on Saturday afternoons. There would be street preachers. The jail was on the top floor of the court house, and the prisoners would whistle at the girls while the preacher was down there preaching. There was courting going on all around the courthouse. You didn't really come to the square to buy, you came to see everybody and visit.

"Every once in a while there would be a fight, and Daddy would always hustle us girls to the car. Sometimes the Sheriff would bring in a

still, bust it up and let the "hooch" flow out on the courthouse lawn. My Daddy would say you could always tell the customers; they would be standing there licking their lips. There were politicians sometimes. It was a great place to be. Now if you want to see anybody on Saturday afternoon you have to go to Wal-Mart.

"I'm proud to be from Baxter County. I'm proud to live at Monkey Run. It is kind of confusing. My telephone exchange is Whiteville. My fire protection district is Midway. My voting precinct is Independence. My mailing address is Gassville. The school district is Cotter. The county seat is Mountain Home. I don't know how I keep up with everything.

"I'm a fifth generation of the Messicks with some of the other family lines that go back farther. With the Robertsons, I go back farther. With my sister's great-grandchildren that makes ten generations of us. We've been here a long time.

"People ask me if I am a native. I guess I qualify. I've been around other places and I've never been to a place I really didn't like. I just always looked forward when I could get back to

Monkey Run.

"When I wrote the History of Baxter County my mother was there to help me and we really had a ball visiting with old friends and making new ones. A lot of the information came from my mother's memories. If my daddy had been alive he could have remembered everything that ever happened to him and everything that was ever told to him as a child.

"I am so impressed with the people that settled this area. They worked so hard to give us what we've got today. I just want to keep it so it will be just as good for those coming after us if we live past the year 2000. I really think we'll make it. I don't think the computers are all going to blow up and destroy us. I just wonder if we will know much difference between this year and the next. I was told that at the end of the last century some people were looking for the Lord to return and got all dressed up in their Sunday best waiting for him to come.

"I'm not too worried about it. The only thing, if I am raptured out of here, I want to take my cats and dogs with me. I don't want to leave them behind.

The American Indian Center and The Trail of Tears

The forced relocation of thousands of Cherokee and other Indians from their ancestral homes in the southeast part of the country to what is now Oklahoma 160 years ago was a sad chapter in American history. Many folks have limited awareness of this event from their school studies or other sources. However, I doubt that most folks in our area realize that one of the routes passed through Baxter County.

One of our members, Bill Woodiel, is working hard to improve public awareness and gain government certification of the route. Bill invited Paul Austin, Director of the American Indian Center at Little Rock and secretary of the

National Trail of Tears Association, to come to our June meeting and speak about the center and what they are doing to help gain government recognition of the route the Cherokees called "Nunahi-Duna-Dlo-Hilu-I" or "Trail Where They Cried."

The following are excerpts from Bill's introduction of Paul Austin and his talk to us:

Bill: "I recently attended a class reunion where I was coaching in 1954 and the program was a mini-roast of me. One of the people doing the roasting was John Lipton, my quarterback, former Speaker of the House of Representatives

and Vice Chairman of the Highway Commission. As a result the Highway Commission has assigned one of their folks to research all land transportation routes of 1840 and 1850 in Arkansas, so we are getting something on a map.

"I met Paul Austin three years ago. He is a native of Imboden, Arkansas; a graduate of Arkansas State University with a degree in political science; and he has a Master's Degree from UALR in Little Rock. He's Chairman of the Arkansas Humanities Council, Secretary of the National Trail of Tears Association, and for the past seventeen years has been the Executive director of the American Indian Center in Little Rock. We're fortunate tonight to have Paul Austin as our speaker."

Paul: "I am a native of Imboden, which you know is located in the mother of all Arkansas counties, Lawrence County. I'm glad to see you folks in Baxter County are making a little progress. Got rid of that ferry and it just opened up, didn't it.

"I've been in Little Rock for twenty years but I still consider this part of the country home. It is good to see the limestone peaking from under the cedar trees.

"I want to talk a little bit tonight about the Arkansas American Indian Center, and what we do, and link that up with the Trail of Tears Association which is also part of the work we do. The American Indian Center was formed about 25 years ago by a group of Indian people that lived here in Arkansas who recognized there was no place for Indian people in trouble to go. Traditionally that role was filled by the tribes, but there are no tribes in Arkansas so often there was no help and people just fell through the cracks.

"We are a private non-profit organization, and for the past twenty years we have operated Federal Department of Labor programs that target assistance to Indian people. These are

national programs and about 60 % of the grants go to tribes. In states where there are no tribes but a significant population of Indians, the grants go to Indian organizations of which we are one.

"We've been operating employment and training programs in Arkansas for some time. The primary focus is to help the unemployed, economically disadvantaged person to change their life. We primarily do that through job training and placement and the bulk of that work is through vocational skills training. We sponsor clients in community colleges, technical colleges, and even some of the four year colleges. Our goal is to take someone who is unemployed and help them become employable.

"We are not what you might call a cultural organization. We get a lot of calls at the center wanting us to come out and dance for school groups, or groups want to visit our offices. That's not what we are. There was a time when the Center went to meetings, pow-wows and some of those things. We realized that those activities were really for us, and not for the people we were trying to help. We might go to one of these on a weekend and have a good time, but on Monday morning we would be dealing with a family desperate for help. There may be a need for money to keep their utilities from being shut off, or a daddy might need gas money to get to work. We might not have the money because we were playing that week end.

"We quickly realized what was important. About fifteen years ago we changed the focus of the Center. We still believe in Indian culture, but we believe Indians ought to decide what that culture is. The most important way to preserve Indian culture is to preserve Indian people. If Indian people are going to survive today, they'd better have a skill; they'd better have a job. That's the main focus of what we do at the center.

"We also believe this is also the best way to

educate Arkansans about who Indian people are.

"I personally believe we have a rather poor history of Indian people in this country. Indian history is filled with stereotypes and often bigotry. The perception most people have about Indians comes from Hollywood. Rarely is that even close to correct.

"People often ask me 'What do Indian people want?' You may be surprised that they would like to have a new car, cable tv. Some liked President Clinton's re-election, some would have preferred someone else. They like to have running water and other things like you and me.

"Some years ago some of you may remember an attempt to turn the Hopi Reservation in Arizona into a living museum. The Park Service thought that was a great idea; so did some of the people in Congress.

"Many of the Hopi did not think this was necessarily a good idea. Instead of preserving the hogan where they lived, they preferred hardwood floors, running water in the house and a toilet. Their message was, "You live in a museum. We would like to live in modern times."

"This was also about the same time the tribal elders decided they wanted to build a high school on their reservation so the Indian children would not have to go to some of the schools in Phoenix. They could stay there. There was a near revolt on the reservation by the high school students, because they wanted to go to Phoenix. They wanted to go to McDonalds, ride around in their Z71s, go to the movies, and go to the mall.

"Some people have told me they thought it sad that Indians are losing their culture. My response is, 'How dare us try to determine what a people's culture is.' If you think Comanche culture today doesn't include pick-up trucks, cable tv, and Oklahoma Sooner football, you don't know who the Comanches are.

"For too long in this country we have had an

idea that an Indian is supposed to be a noble savage riding across the plains on horseback hunting the buffalo. The buffalo wasn't even a part of many Indians cultures. If you look, for example, at the Comanche tribe, who were considered the "lords of the plains," the segment of their overall history where horses were prominent was very small. Yet we tend to focus on that little segment in their history. I think that is unfortunate.

"Please don't think that I believe history is not important. I think history is critical. Far too often our understanding of who Indians are today, is mistaken because we don't know who Indians were.

"Part of our role is to help Arkansans in some sense have a better idea who Indian people were and, more importantly, who they are today. We try to do that at the center with our various programs. We try and deal with the issue of stereotypes. We don't see much evidence of overt racism and bigotry here. That happens in other places, and in Indian country it happens a lot. We do see a lot of simple ignorance in Arkansas about who Indians are.

"One of the other things we do at the center involves our contract with the National Trail of Tears Association to act as their management team. We've been doing this for about four years. The association was started after the Trail of Tears became part of the National Park Service. In 1987 legislation was passed that created the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail. That puts it in the same league with the Oregon Trail, Pony Express, and others -- all part of the National Park Service eligible for Park Service funds.

"As often happens with our brothers and sisters in Washington, it was a great idea but no one funded it. There was an entity called the Trail of Tears Advisory Council appointed by the Secretary of the Interior and included the governors of the states. They realized there was a need for a friends organization to really help

the process. They were instrumental in forming the Trail of Tears Association. The first chairman was Chief Wilma Mankiller, Chief of the Cherokee Nation at that time. The goal of the association is to promote, protect, and identify the legacy of the Trail of Tears to include its history and historically significant sites.

"The legislation identified two routes as official trail routes. One was the northern route that came out of Tennessee, went north through Kentucky, southern Illinois, southern Missouri, and cut through the northwest corner of Arkansas. Some of you may have seen National Park Service signs on Hwy 71 at Fayetteville identifying it as part of the national historic trail. That is called the northern route. The other route was called the water route. This was the Tennessee River to the Mississippi, then up the Arkansas. There were two other routes

identified by the park service as historically significant, but they were not included in the original legislation because not enough research had been done to get a good handle on where the routes had gone. One that Bill and I have worked on, and Bill has done a tremendous amount of work, is the Benige route that definitely came through Baxter County.

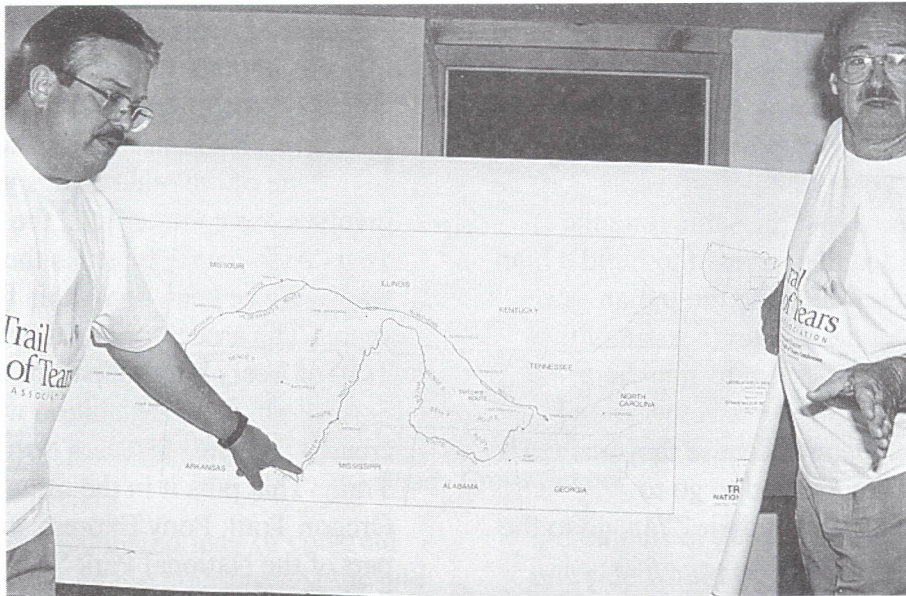
"The Trail of Tears Association is establishing chapters in each of the nine states that were part of the trail. Today there are seven chapters: Oklahoma, Arkansas, Missouri, Illinois, Tennessee, Georgia, and North Carolina. Alabama and Kentucky are still pending. The state chapters are designed to focus on specific sites and address issues within their state.

"Arkansas is unique in that all of the routes came through Arkansas. All of the Indian tribes came through our state, including the Cherokees, Choctaws, Seminole, Creek, and Chickasaws. The purpose of the association is to do the research necessary for getting the other two routes listed with the national park service and to identify and certify sites along the trails already identified.

"One of the unique things that has happened over the years is the creation of a

Trail of Tears myth that has focused on how many Indian people died on the trail. Research is showing us that actually not that many people actually died on the trail. Instead of seven or eight thousand, some people argue there were less than five hundred

that died on the trail. We know essentially who left Tennessee from the internment camps, and we know who arrived in Oklahoma.



Paul Austin (left), national secretary of the Trail of Tears Association, and Bill Woodiel, local researcher and member of the Historical Society, discuss the different routes that together make up the "Trail of Tears."

“When you think about it, of course not that many people died. The Cherokees were not ignorant savages that didn't know how to walk through the woods. They had been around forever and had been coming to Arkansas Territory for a long time. The real tragedy of the Trail of Tears is what happened to those people, how they were forcibly removed from their homes.

“I think one of the reasons the Cherokee part of the trail had more impact in American history than the other tribes is that the Cherokees were often referred to as the most European of all the tribes. When they were removed from their homes in Georgia, Tennessee and North Carolina, they were land owners with plantations, stores and newspapers. They were full members of a Europeanized society. Unfortunately, they resided on valuable land and the state of Georgia particularly was determined to get them off that land and they did.

“The Cherokees even sued the state in the courts and the case was heard in the Supreme Court. Justice Marshall reported for the majority in favor of the Cherokee Nation, that efforts to remove them were illegal.

“Things were very different then. President Jackson was quoted as saying, ‘If Justice Marshall doesn't want us to remove the Indians, then let Justice Marshall stop us.’

“I think this is the most difficult part of the Trail of Tears to deal with. It's a much more personal issue. If you talk about some one who has died, that is not necessarily a personal issue from a historical perspective. When you talk about some one who was removed from land they had title to, it is different. You can go to the land that was involved today.

“We hope to tell the real story of the Trail of Tears. It would begin and end with the Cherokee people and will include the other tribes, all have a unique story to tell. Our efforts in the Trail of Tears Association involve not just Indian people, but all kinds of people. Membership in the association is diverse, and not just Indian. The growth we have had over the last couple of years is indicative of the tremendous interest. The most frequent call we get at the center is from people trying to trace their Cherokee heritage. Genealogy is a time consuming thing and we just can't do it. Being proud of one's Cherokee heritage is a healthy thing.

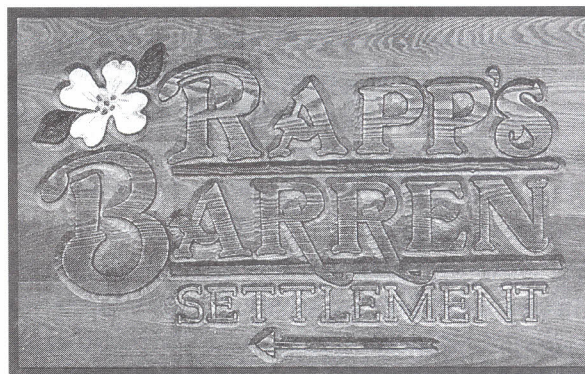
“At the American Indian Center we are always pleased to work with Indian people and Arkansans who want to help us. I would encourage you, if you know someone of Indian descent who is unemployed or economically disadvantaged, to have them give us a call. I'll leave some information about the association with you and will be glad to take questions.”

Rapp's Barren Pioneer Settlement

By Gene Garr

The Talburt-Leonard Cabin

Greetings from the group who has worked on the pioneer settlement project and from those who helped to raise the funds for the settlement. What you see today is the result of about seven





The Talburt-Leonard Log Cabin

years of worrying, planning, fund raising and construction.

This project began in 1991 when the old Leonard home on College Street was being demolished to make room for construction of apartments. The Leonard family had owned the home and property for over 120 years. James Leonard was a returning Civil War Captain who had originally come to this area from Georgia in the 1860s and settled in the White River valley. Upon returning, he wanted to get out of the damp river bottom that he considered unhealthy and purchased the property in Mountain Home from the family of Simeon Talburt.

Frederick Talburt, Sr., brought his family to this country in 1814 and settled in the Norfolk area. He had several children, among them was Simeon, or Sim as he was later to be called. Simeon elected to not stay on the river with the rest of the family and bought land in 1830 in what was to be called Rapp's Barren, later to be renamed Mountain Home. It is known that Sim built a substantial log cabin on this property. Simeon and several of his descendants are buried in the small Talburt/Casey Cemetery located in the Indian Creek Subdivision in Mountain Home.

Simeon's sons, Simeon or Sim and Walter or

Wat, went on to become prominent in Mountain Home history. They operated the first mail and stage coach between Mountain Home and West Plains, Missouri. They also were involved with several other ventures including a flour mill in Mountain Home. Simeon, Sr., had acquired the nickname "Rapp," and the area became known as Rapp's Barren. The post office and the geological maps and surveys of that period reflected Rapp's Barren as the name of the settlement later to become Mountain Home. So you can see that Simeon Talburt was a very important part of early Mountain Home.

When the Talburt cabin began to appear under the Leonard home, our plans began immediately. We asked the demolition contractor to preserve the logs, and mark them for re-assembly. Year long negotiations were started to acquire the logs. In the mean time the logs were stored in an empty garage building in Lakeview, Arkansas. By paying \$2000, the Society obtained title to the logs. We were then required to move the logs from the building in Lakeview. With the aid of the Baxter County Highway Department, the logs were moved to property in southern Mountain Home, owned by Paul Caton, a concerned citizen. There they were to remain until this Cooper Park site became available.

The cabin committee made several attempts to find a location to reassemble the cabin. A site at the Casey House proved to not be available. Several acres of land were offered, but the lack of a clear title eliminated that site. In March 1992, after the committee toured the SW corner of Cooper Park, approximately a 2-acre area, a presentation was made to the City Council asking that body to approve the placing of the cabin and several other buildings on the site to provide a historical settlement in Cooper Park. They voted to approve the Society's plan for the settlement.

At that time, the Mountain Home Chamber Foundation became a partner in our park

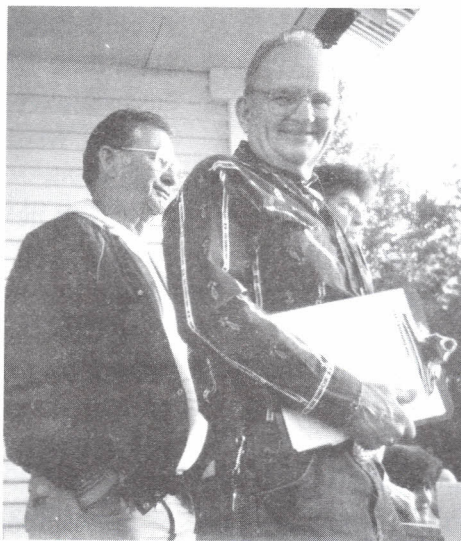
project, agreeing to become the financial director. They accepted donations, did the accounting and paid proper bills. This assured that all donators of funds achieved IRS tax exemption and the overall financial integrity in the project.

Now the reconstruction could begin. With the cooperation of then Judge Joe Dillard, the logs again were loaded by the County's Bridge and Road Maintenance Department and moved to the site in Cooper Park.

Erecting a small log cabin should just be a simple task, don't you agree? That is what we thought when we undertook the task of reconstructing the old Leonard/Talbur cabin.

After the logs were in the park, the monsoon season descended on us. In between rainstorms, foundations were installed for the cabin. Workdays were scheduled. It became a standard joke among us that a call to work at the park would cause an immediate storm to occur. Severe lightning caused us to call off the work at one instance. Many of our workdays were abbreviated within an hour of starting by the storms. Rainwater runoff eliminated our access culvert to the area several times. Soft grounds would force us to wait several days for drying before we could start again.

Weather would not be the only obstacle we would face. The contractor who removed the logs from the Leonard home was asked to mark the logs for reinstallation. He did so, marking the logs with numbers on a piece of paper masking tape. After the logs were stored for almost a year, then moved to our storage area, then again moved to the park, it was discovered that we only had a very few of the markings left.



Gene Garr and Joe O'Halloran pose with pride on the front porch of the recently restored Shady Grove School.

Our work crew, which was comprised at different times, of Larry Golden, Hank Schol, Rex Bayless, Jr., myself, and park supervisor Les LeFur, who operated the front end loader supplied by the park department director, Jackie Leatherman, was organized.

Bravely and rather blindly, we forged ahead to install the logs. Finding the starting logs was not difficult. Then came a major problem. After finding about three rows of logs that seemed to somewhat fit, the matching of joints became impossible.

On the workday that this was discovered, a halt to the proceeding was necessary. An inventory of the logs was made and exact measurements of each log were taken. A quiet Sunday afternoon was spent making lists of the logs and rearranging them until a key was discovered.

Our cabin maker had a very unique system to build his cabin. The bottom log was actually the shortest log of the building. Each ascending row was one half inch longer. This held true for each side of the building. When this fact was discovered, installation of the logs could now begin anew. Almost without incident, the logs were installed until the reinstallation was complete.

Discussions among the crew as to why this system was used by our cabin maker brought out the one reason that we could agree on. By having the top of the cabin bigger than the bottom, rain would tend to drip off and away from the building. If this is the reason, he was truly a thinking man. [However, it could be that his manner of marking the logs for cutting could have caused the one-half inch variation]. Much praise and gratitude should be heaped on our

volunteers, including the park personnel, in getting the heavy log timbers up.

The contractor, who had left the area before we could recover them, retained several small logs that fit between the front elevation windows. It is evident that the front window spaces have been cut bigger many years after the cabin was originally installed. A decision was made to eliminate one row of logs above the ceiling line and use those logs to bring the front windows back to a size more fitting for the period of the cabin construction.

Plans were made to enclose the area immediately around the cabin with a split oak log fence. At the 1993 reunion of the Talburt Family, the Ron Talburt family of Springfield, Missouri, donated funds to purchase the logs. The logs were located, purchased and later installed by Boy Scout Troop #156 when the cabin was near completion.

A rafter from the Leonard home had been salvaged which gave the roof pitch for the cabin. It was decided to install front and rear porches on the cabin. This not only gives a good appearance but also afforded the front and backsides of the cabin much protection from the elements.

A search for rough lumber, similar to the type used in olden days, was made. A lumber concern in Calico Rock, Arkansas, was contacted and Arkansas pine lumber was purchased for roof framing, flooring, etc. The Canadian made cedar shake shingles, available from only one supplier, were purchased through Meeks Lumber Company and delivered in May 1994. The price of the cedar shakes had risen to new heights! Costs were \$140 per square and the cabin required 10 squares.

Soon after the cedar shakes were received and the nailer strips were installed on the roof rafters, the tedious job of installing the roof shingles began. Of course, this occurred in June, which just happened to be one of the hottest Junes for several years. Workdays ran

from 6:30 a.m. to about 9:30 or 10 a.m..

Temperatures would be in the low nineties by that time. However, with a couple of days work assistance by the men of the Park Department, [Les & Matt] the roof was completed on June 30, 1994.

The next phase of the project was to obtain rough sawn plank to enclose both gables. While doing this the floor system was also addressed. The floor support system was installed, but the actual flooring was delayed pending termite treatment and placement of the gable ends. This would eliminate water damage to the new flooring.

Member Dr. James Lowe arranged for the Hopper Termite Company to protect the cabin from the insects. The treatment was performed on July 13, 1994. Owner Lynn Hopper graciously donated the cost of the treatment to the project.

The rough sawn plank for enclosing the gables was found at the 44 Lumber Company at Calico Rock. On Monday, July 11, 1994, member Henry "Hank" Schol trucked the first load of this lumber from Calico Rock. A second trip was required to haul all the lumber to the cabin. Scaffolding was built and by Friday the 15th, the east end gable was completed. Hank hauled the second load a week later. This allowed both gables to be completed.

With the building reasonably under cover, the flooring was installed. Again the park personnel came to help and the floor was completed in early August. The window sash was hand made and installed. The rough sawn plank was chosen also to be used as flooring for the porches. The porch floor was installed and the cabin took on the looks of a little home.

The project of getting the logs "chinked" was tackled. Mason Roger Hall, of Norfolk, looked at the project and gave a cost figure. He was recommended by the Wolf House

committee who had used him to chink their "John Wolf" Cabin. It was decided to hire Roger Hall as he was the only experienced "cabin chinker" we could find. During the week of August 15 after five days of work by him and his helper, he completed the chinking of the logs. Roger was paid \$500 for this phase of the project.

As the original stones for the fireplace could not be located, it was decided that Roger Hall would furnish materials and would construct a non-functional fireplace up to the ceiling line. He began the work on September 26 and completed the fireplace on the 29th. Roger was paid \$1000 for his labor and the furnishing of the native stone for the fireplace.

The doors and window shutters were installed after the fireplace work was completed.

At this point, the split rail fence was installed.

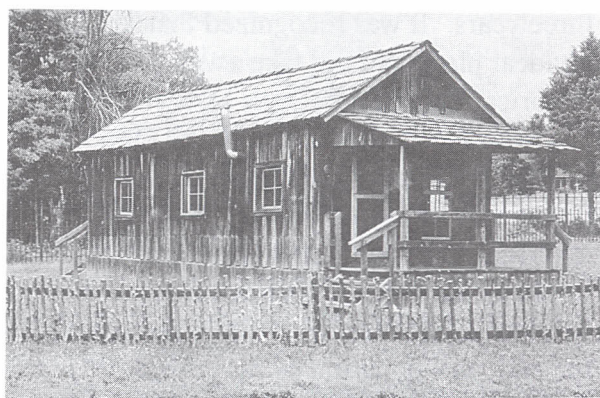
The cabin doors and window shutters were installed during the month of October 1994 and locks were applied. The clean up of the cabin and area was then completed.

An open house and cabin dedication was held on October 22. At this time the great efforts of our fund raising chairperson, Becky Baker, and all the members who helped in the fund raising to save this very important Baxter County relic were recognized.

Later the Plexiglas viewing door was added to the cabin to permit better interior viewing and still maintain some security.

The Shotgun House

The Shotgun House is a good example of southern architecture, even in the simple type of building that it is. The name is derived from the fact that all doors are in a direct line. Theoretically, a gun fired through the open front door would exit at the rear without hitting anything. I believe that the reason for the door alignment was to promote better air circulation.



The Shotgun House

The typical shotgun house is of very simple construction. The building is frameless; no studding is used in the design. The vertical siding boards form the complete wall just one board thick. It was possible for early homesteaders or farmers to send some pine logs to the saw mill and with the purchase of a couple of doors, some windows and some roof tin to have a very inexpensive shelter. This type of building was used to house workers at factories, farms or plantations or just to provide temporary shelter until the farm owner could afford to construct a more permanent home.

We believe the house was built about 1900, as it was constructed with round nails.

Our shotgun house has been moved several times. It was moved from what would become Norfolk Lake while the dam was being built. It was brought to a farm and used as a temporary home while a permanent home was built. Dr. Doug Marx acquired the farm and planned to demolish the building. Through the efforts of Dr. James Lowe, the Marx family agreed to donate the shot gun house to the Historical Society.

The M.C. White Company graciously agreed to handle the moving of the house from the Marx farm to the Casey House lot. The County Bridge Department used their heavy duty low-boy trailer and truck and assisted. This was accomplished and the building remained along side the Casey House for about

three years. It was recognized that this was not an ideal place and did take away from the historical aura of the Casey House.

With the establishment of the pioneer village in Cooper Park, the shotgun house had a permanent location. In May of 1995, Dr. Lowe and Gene Garr again met with Mr. M. C. White of the M. C. White Construction Company. Mr. White again agreed to relocate the building to the park as a donation by his company. It was decided that the move would come late in the summer during the traditional dry period. Baxter County Judge Joe Bodenhamer furnished the county's heavy capacity low boy trailer and tractor to transport the building.

Gene Garr prepared the building for move by placing cross braces in the interior. On August 16, Richard Marcotte of the M. C. White Construction Co. began the task of preparing the building for loading. M&M Concrete

Products delivered a donated load of concrete block for use in raising the building. At the end of the day, Rich had the building up and secured on the trailer. Due to the extreme heat being experienced and to avoid much of the morning traffic, it was decided to begin the move at 6 am on the morning of the 17th of August. The Police Department was contacted and requested to furnish escort and a route was planned to go from the fairgrounds. The route proceeded

down College Street to First Street, down First Street to Cardinal, Cardinal to Spring Street, and Spring Street to the park.

The move began shortly after 6 am and proceeded without incident to the park. The crew of the Parks & Recreation Department of the City of Mountain Home, under Park Director Jackie Leatherman, accompanied the building, walking the entire route to the park. The park crew consisted of Pete Hernandez, Joe Melder and Bret Hansen. They had prepared long poles and used them to raise wires to clear the building. The move took about 45 minutes.

Upon arrival at the park the shotgun house

was placed at its current location. Under the direction of Rich, with the help of Pete, Joe and Bret, they began the hot task of again raising the building to remove the truck and then to lower the building to its final position. The lowering was accomplishing by jacking the building down in



The Shady Grove School

increments of about 6 inches at a time. First one side would be lowered and then the other. At noon the building was down on its final blocks, pronounced level and plumb and the move was declared over. The task was accomplished on a day that saw the temperature reach 101 degrees.

During the month of October 1995, the reconstruction of the porches began and S4S planed lumber was purchased from Meeks

Lumber for the base of the porches. In November, rough sawed native pine lumber was purchased from 48 Lumber Company at Calico Rock. The Parks Department picked up the lumber and delivered it to the site. This lumber was used for the decking, steps and railings. This work was completed November 3, 1995. Eight new barn sash windows were also purchased, and base painted at the site. Installation of the windows began during the month of March 1996 and was completed two weeks later.

On Earth Day in May, several of our members cleaned up the building and disposed of excess material from the site. During the month of July 1996, skirting was completed. The skirting was constructed by using S4S oak lumber donated by member Ellen Ramey.

A plan was developed to install fencing along the walking trail in front of the shotgun house. Cedar posts and cedar round pickets would be used to provide a natural, crude fence that might have been installed in this area in the period of the shotgun occupancy. Members Dr. and Becky Baker provided the necessary cedar material from their property. On December 25 a load of cedar was delivered to the site. The fence was completed during February 1996

The Shady Grove School

The school building was donated by our member, Stella Jackson, who attended school in the building. It was the third phase of the project that was brought before the Mountain Home City Council by the Historical Society in 1992. This would turn out to be one of greatest challenges here in the park.

It was decided that the schoolhouse would be placed across from the Leonard-Talbert Cabin on the opposite side of the trail, near the duck pond.

Land title clearing was completed early in 1997 and plans began for the relocation. We moved quickly, as the building had been

vandalized. All the windows and doors had been demolished, but the building was otherwise in fairly good condition. Probably, because of its location on a rocky knoll, the foundation was solid and was well drained. The building had a hard wood floor that needed protection.

A small knoll across the trail from the Leonard-Talbert cabin was the best site for the Shady Grove School in Rapp's Barren. Bids were submitted from house movers and ranged from \$2800 to \$6000. Baugh Movers from Batesville was the successful bidder.

The building was cleaned out and plastic sheeting placed on the floor to protect it while the roof was open during the move. Larry Golden and Gene Garr did the cleanup and placing of the plastic on May 5, 1997.

On May 6, the Arkansas Corrections Department advised that the inmate work detail would remove the roof and porch as soon as their schedule would permit.

Member Dr. James Lowe arranged for Bill Willett of the Willett Construction Company to remove the concrete stoop as soon as the porch was removed.

Member Garvin Carroll solicited the M&M Concrete Company and got another donation of 100 concrete blocks for use as foundation piers for the building when placed in the park. Garvin used his trailer and hauled the blocks to the park.

On July 17, 1996, 13 inmates and two guards from the Arkansas Department of Correction, under the direction of Warden Larry May, removed the roof structure and the porch from the school house in preparation for the actual move.

On July 22, the Baugh House Movers (a.k.a. Batesville House Movers) called to say that they would be on site on July 31 to prepare the building for moving.

On Thursday, July 31, the Movers brought their equipment and began work to prepare the school building for moving. By late Friday

afternoon the structure had been moved from its foundation and positioned for moving at first light on Sunday, August 3.

On Sunday morning at dawn, after checking all the chains, etc., the movers began the trek to Cooper Park. To avoid several narrow bridges the building was moved past the Shady Grove Store to Buford and then over to Highway 62 East. At the Ford dealership the Sheriff's patrol escorted the building through town, down Highway 62 to Cardinal Drive, then to Spring and finally to the Park. The small ditch near the Youth Center was then blocked up, a couple of limbs cut from a tree that blocked the way and at about 10:30 a.m. the building was finally placed in its current location.

The movers constructed the piers necessary for the final resting-place for the school. It was necessary to secure 4" x 6" cap timbers for the building to rest on as well as ground base stones as foundation for the piers. The piers were placed about 8 feet apart.

By 2 p.m. the building had been lowered onto the foundations in its final position. The final moving cost of the project was \$3,060. An additional \$260 was paid for placing cap timbers on the piers, adding ground base stones and for the framing used to reinforce the ceiling during the move. As it would be necessary to maintain the bracing until the roof was placed, it was decided to have the contractor leave his bracing. After the completion of the roof, the bracing would be removed.

The Reconstruction

Almost immediately after the building was placed in Cooper Park, storm clouds gathered and the area endured about 2 ½ inches of rain.

This was disastrous to the old building. The oak flooring buckled badly in many places and the wood ceiling suffered the same fate. We determined that possibly the plastic covering we placed on the floor may have caused the major buckling. What seemed like a good idea turned

out to be a problem.

As the windows and the doors to the building had been badly vandalized, replacement units were required. Windows and doors were ordered from Meeks Lumber. The old style windows and doors were hard to find and required special ordering. Upon receipt of the large window units these were installed in the building to prevent further damage. The doors were installed and both the windows and doors were prime painted. One of the small windows was home made and installed. As it was necessary to provide a safe escape door towards the rear of the building, a new door opening replaced the other small window.

The replacement of the roof began almost immediately. The original studs and nailer strips as well as the sheeting of the end gables were placed by members Larry Golden and Gene Garr.

By the first of September, the structure was ready for the metal roof. After unsuccessful efforts were made to find a roofer who would install a metal roof, metal material was bought for a little under \$600, and members Gene Garr and Larry Golden installed the roofing. This was completed on October 3.

During the roof construction, the building's outer area siding was scraped and primed to get ready for a white, top grade, outer coat. This covered very well with one coat. Members Becky Baker, Sonny and Judi Sharp, Joe O'Halloran, and Ellen Ramey accomplished a major portion of the finish.

The next step was reinstalling the porch on the building. In view of the large amount of form work required to reconstruct the original concrete posts, it was decided to replace them with wood. This work began on October 20 by digging footing holes for the porch posts. The existing framing material from the old porch was reinstalled and the posts on the porch were adorned with structures with the same dimensions and looks of the original.

The belfry was rebuilt, the bell installed and a Century Telephone crew placed it on the porch roof. Members Kitty and Jay Baker had donated the bell.

The decking for the porch floor was donated by the City of Mountain Home and came from the demolition of the West Side of the square buildings.

The ceiling, which had been damaged by the heavy rains, was placed back in position and the interior of the building was painted. A major portion of the hardwood floor was relaid, replacing the warped boards, and then

The Jones Cabin

Dr. Ray and Edie Stahl, who now own the Jones Farm, donated the Johnny Jones Cabin. After a meeting with then Mayor Carol Howell, it was decided that the cabin would also be placed in the Pioneer Park. Dr. Stahl arranged to have the house stripped of interior lining, siding, and framing that covered the log cabin for many years.

The cabin is constructed of heart pine logs in fair to good condition, with a through-the-wall keystone native stone fireplace. The fireplace had been filled in with stone and had not been used as a fireplace for many years. The chimney had been converted to stove heat.

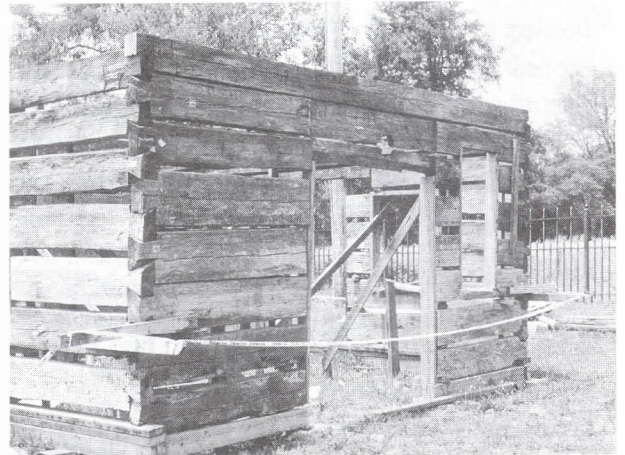
The rafters were round ridgepole pine and were in fair shape. The cabin has three doors and three windows. An oak framed floor system with pine flooring had been installed in the cabin, but at a much later date after the cabin was built.

The cabin measures approximately 20' x 22'. One of the windows had been widened to form a small picture window. On November 18, a crew of Dr. Ray Stahl, Ernie Kellum, Gene Garr and M.C. White Company's Kevin White met to begin dismantling the cabin. The logs were

refinished.

Joe O'Halloran performed many hours helping get the building back to what it is now.

The school clock was donated partially by the Larry Golden Family, "of Golden Acres, as a thank you for the people and organizations of Baxter County and Mountain Home, for the wonderful welcome they extended to Larry's parents, John and Phoebe Golden on their move here in 1960" and the balance by the Garrs in memory of Hazen Bonow, the late long-time member who served long as the Society's historian.



The Jones cabin – the latest addition to Cooper Park's Rapp's Barren Pioneer Settlement.

marked. The M. C. White Company furnished a large lift vehicle that was equipped with a hydraulic boom and lift prongs. The machine was able to remove most of the logs with a minimum of effort.

Mr. M. C. White, who has consistently supported the efforts to preserve old structures in the County, donated the services of the machine; and his son, Kevin, also donated his time to operate the machine.

The logs, were loaded on two gooseneck trailers furnished by Jerry Silzell, a friend of Dr. Stahl. The use of two trailers made it possible to have all the materials loaded on the same day, to include the foundation and floor joist logs. The roof round rafters and roofing tin

would be moved at a later date. The dismantling was completed at noon and the crew disbanded. On Saturday November 25, the logs were moved to Cooper Park. Using a "Bob-Cat" type of front end loader took the hard labor out of the loading.

The material was placed in the park in piles to be sorted later. Jerry Silzell, Ray Stahl and Gene Garr completed the unloading of the material by about noon. Again, thanks to Jerry Silzell for the trailer and the Bob-Cat use. A work day in May was set and with the use of the truck belonging to Dr. Stahl, the ceiling joists, sheet metal roof, and fireplace arch stones were hauled to the park. The balance of the fireplace stones were retained by Dr. Stahl who used them in the construction of his new home.

In the spring of 1999, Joe O'Halloran and Gene Garr began the reinstallation of the Jones log cabin. A site to the east of the

Leonard/Talburc cabin was selected. Work began in earnest in April 1999 to raise the cabin. A work day is being held on most Thursdays with a front end loader machine and operator furnished by the Park Department.

This cabin has proved to be a very difficult project, but we are making progress. Several timbers had suffered extensive rotting. We did not use some from the top, but instead, utilized those timbers to replace the rotten ones and to reduce the wide picture window opening. This should not detract from the appearance of the cabin and permit the timbers to last much longer. We appreciate money donated by two of the Jones sisters for cabin reconstruction. They sold the property to the Stahls.

That brings us up to date on our progress in the Settlement. I appreciate the opportunity to make this report to you all.

Oak Grove Baptist Church

Your editor recently talked to Stella Jackson about the Oak Grove community. She provided some wonderful research she had done about the church, cemetery and school and the following is based on that information.

I've never seen a more peaceful setting than the well kept grounds of the Oak Grove Baptist Church and cemetery. Judi and I recently visited this beautiful place a few miles south of Mountain Home off Old Arkana Road. Nestled among huge oak trees with wide-spreading branches, the old church building adds a quiet dignity to this peaceful scene.

A small cemetery to the east has a few tall monuments and many field stones that mark the final resting place of friends and neighbors from the community. Some were pioneers to this area and older graves include: Jerald Adams

(1898-1899); A.J. Copeland (1837-1900); Birditt Carter (1861-1900); Caroline McCormack (1876-1896); G.W. Patterson (1861-1897); Morine Vickrey (1896-1897); George Washington Jones (1825-1901); and Elizabeth Chadwick Jones (1827-1908).

Directly east of the cemetery stood the Oak Grove School, which began about 1879. The building stood in front of three or four graves possibly older than



The gravestone of Elder A. J. Copeland, born 16 September 1837, died 3 October 1900.

those in the cemetery, as they were covered with cut stones, similar to early graves in older cemeteries. There'll be more about the school in a future quarterly.

The Oak Grove church was organized January 13, 1884, with six members and Pastor A.J. Copeland. J. S. Barton was elected as church clerk. By 1894 church membership had increased to 58, and in 1900 had 73 members, which appears to have been its largest membership before its decline.

Like any business or organization, the social and economic situation of an area can affect church membership. The year 1901 was very hot and dry, and was said by some to be the year without any rain. Many settlers livelihood depended on what they raised on their small farms. Crops were a failure that particular year, and many people were forced to leave the area. Some went by wagon along the Arkansas River near Russellville to pick cotton. Some moved to other states and never returned. This population shift diminished the membership of the Oak Grove church.

By 1907 membership had declined to 49, but the church was still active and Elder John Henry Marler was the pastor. The "Baxter Bulletin" for May 24 of that year stated, "There will be a big meeting at the Oak Grove Church next Sunday. The meeting will last all day. Brother Marler will preach in the morning and in the afternoon there will be a great singing.

The Oak Grove Baptist Church had joined the White River Baptist Association along with 24 other Baptist Churches in 1894. It had

remained an active member until it did not send representatives to the association meetings from 1908 to 1918 during which time membership had dropped to 11. The original church building had deteriorated to a point where it was decided in 1919 that it needed to be razed and a new one constructed.

The work was done by John Franklin Napier. He was the son of John and Sarah Smith Napier who had migrated from Missouri in the early 1890s. The new church building appeared a little smaller than the original, but on the same location.

Many people attended church and Sunday school at Oak Grove even though they were not members of the church. There were 12 members in 1931 and 16 in 1932, with 50 attending Sunday school. Claude Crigler from Cotter served as Pastor during 1931-1932. Other pastors who served the church included: J.B. Perkins (1890); A.J. Whaley (1891); W.D. Jennings (1894-1896); J.B. Smith (1897-1898-1902); J.T. Hand (1899-1900); J.A. Harrelson (1901); J.H. Marler (1903-1907); Lawrence Davis (1918); M.E. Wiles (1924-1925); J.M. Langston (1926); George W. Johnson (1941); and J.F. Duncan (1947-1950). Others have preached at Oak Grove at various times who were not the regular pastor. These included Rev. Frank Richardson, father of our historical

society member, Jeanetta Grigg. Troy Melton preached in the absence of his father-in-law, Rev. Frank Duncan. Rev. Dale Barnett was among ministers who held revivals or preached on occasional Sundays.



The Oak Grove Church

Membership in 1950 was 22. In 1958 there were 16 members and 25 in Sunday school. In 1960 there were 25 members with Rev. J.F. Duncan as pastor. In 1972 there were 18 members and during the 1970s the First Baptist Church of Mountain Home began sending lay pastors to Oak Grove to assist with services and help generate more attendance. This continued till around 1980 when services were discontinued. There have been no active services since.

During some of the inactive times Dean Robertson remembers one Sunday when he and his little brother, Doyle, and Sunday school teacher, Mr. North, were the only ones present. Mr. North got up and taught a lesson from the Bible as if the building was full.

Memories of earlier times by folks who attended Oak Grove are very precious. Myrtie Smith wrote from California that during 1898 she and her sister, Elda, were converted during a revival meeting held in a brush arbor at Shady Grove by Rev. Sampson M. Jackson and Uncle John Smith. "We joined Oak Grove Church and were baptized in Big Creek by Uncle John." Lavon Jones Schnakenberg recalls a family living in the church building during the 1930s while they had a house under construction. They would move their things into a back corner while church services and Sunday school were held, then use the entire building until the next Sunday. Historical society member, Nadine Froderman, recalls attending Oak Grove church as a child. Her father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. Price Biggers, joined the church and were baptized in the White River along with Rena Lewis.

It was common practice to have all day services with preaching in the morning, dinner on the grounds at noon, and singing in the afternoon. It was during one such gathering in the mid 1930s that Stella Jackson recalled seeing Oak Grove Church for the first time. Having heard of it as being one of the churches

where her grandfather, Rev. John B. Smith, had served as pastor, it felt like a familiar place. The Arthur Smith family had been invited to attend the all day service and their family sing some "specials." A large crowd attended and it seemed that the hills and hollows echoed from the singing.

Mrs. Edna McGhee recalls attending Oak Grove for many years when their family lived a short distance west of Shipp's Ferry Road, now Highway 201 South. Mrs. McGhee furnished a copy of some pictures of the original church building, along with the one that replaced it during the year 1919. She also gave pictures of the Oak Grove School students during the years her two sons and daughter attended there.

Hazel Dodson Cody has fond memories of attending gatherings at Oak Grove Church, and also attending school at Oak Grove, as did others in her family including her son J.W. "Bill" Cody, historical society member, some years later.

Lena Jones Jackson, now deceased, stated that her mother, Laura Vickrey Jones, had a room reserved for the Rev. Claude Crigler when he came to the community to preach at Oak Grove.

Early families who were active leaders in the church were: J.S. Barton; W.C. and W.H. Thorn; A.H. Baxter; J.B. Williams; J.S. Parker; George Eddings; N.D. Fuller; Levi Gilliland; S.R. Jones; J.T. Taylor S.B. Smith; George Smith; Harvey Smith; John Napier; Frank Napier; Ed Head and many others.

The Oak Grove Baptist Church building was vandalized in 1993 and has badly deteriorated. During 1998 the Baxter County Historical and Genealogical Society obtained title to the church building and plans are being made to move it to the Rapp's Barren Pioneer Settlement in Cooper Park. It will be placed next to the Shady Grove School and restored for enjoyment by future generations. It is truly wonderful to be part of such a worthwhile endeavor.



George Washington Jones and his wife, Elizabeth Chadwick Jones.

George Washington Jones

By Stella Jackson

GEORGE WASHINGTON JONES was born in Tennessee on February 17, 1823. He was the second child of fourteen children of **JOSEPH MADISON JONES** and his wife, **RACHEL WALKER JONES**, who both had deep roots in Cherokee Indian Ancestry.

The 1850 census of Dade County, Georgia, shows George W. Jones as family 177, a farmer who was 26 years of age. His wife, **ELIZABETH CHADWICK JONES** was 22 and their son, **WILLIAM WORTH JONES** was age 1, born in Georgia. They had another son, **THOMAS L. JONES**, born 1852, also in Georgia.

Joseph Madison Jones and his wife, Rachel, and most of their other children moved to

DeKalb County, Alabama, and are shown in the 1850 census there. Joseph was tax assessor of that county until his death in 1860 when he was killed by lightning.

George W. Jones and family moved to Alabama and while living there a daughter, **LOURANA ORENA JONES** was born in 1854 and a son, **GEORGE A.F. JONES** was born in 1856.

George W. then took his family and migrated west and settled in Marion County, Arkansas (now Baxter County). He established a grist mill on Big Creek, and homesteaded 160 acres of land about 1 1/4 miles north of the mill site during 1857 and 1858. They cleared land and farmed and obtained some livestock and settled into their new home. A son, **JOHN A. J. JONES** was born in 1861.

After the death of her husband, Rachel Jones, along with five daughters and two sons also moved to Marion County, Arkansas, and found a house about two miles west of the present Highway 201 South and a short distance south of Military Road near what is now Mountain Home. Rachel died in 1864 and is buried in the small cemetery near where they were living. Some folks know it as the Gene Wells place. Others know it as the Horn Cemetery.

The Civil War brought many hardships to the area. Raiders often stole or destroyed property sometimes killing family members. George W. got word that raiders were coming so his family hid about half of their belongings in hollow logs, trees, and caves. They put the rest in their wagon and started to Pineville east of the North Fork River where they thought it would be safer.

Near Iuka, they were confronted by some raiders. George figured he would be killed, perhaps his sons too. They looked at George, who had a broken arm, and took only their belongings without harming any of the family. George, being the determined person that he was, went back to the homestead, gathered the

rest of their belongings and went to Pineville where they stayed until the end of the war. They returned to their homestead to find their property burned and their livestock driven off.

As the family began the process of starting over, George got logs from what is now the Ozark National Forest, south of the White River, for a house. They were hauled on wagons drawn by oxen. The large log room had a fireplace and a stairway to the attic to use as sleeping quarters. It was common to build small rooms on the side to use as a kitchen/dining area. The family again farmed their land and operated the grist mill on Big Creek. Another son, **Calvin Freeman Jones** was born in 1868.

George had an active part in establishing a "free school" which would be named Oak Grove, District No. 13. This was apparently approved by the court in the late 1870s or 1880. He served as chairman of the school board, and his term expired in 1884. His son, Calvin, was one of the 42 school age persons enumerated in 1885, and was age 15. Another son, George A.F. taught at Oak Grove for one term. He also served on the school board in 1890 and at other times. He taught school at other area districts, to include Shady Grove in 1884.

George W. Jones continued working at his grist mill, until a few days before his death on January 25, 1902. He was buried at the Oak Grove Cemetery. His wife lived until February 20, 1908, and was buried beside her husband. The obituary for George W. Jones stated that he was an industrious, frugal farmer who was well off in this world's goods, and seldom came to town unless he had business matters to attend to.

The children of George Washington Jones and Elizabeth are as follows:

1. WILLIAM WORTH JONES married **SUSAN ELLIS** and were the parents of twelve children. They homesteaded land in the Arkana area with

the historic Arkana School and cemetery on their property. Many descendants of the family still live in the area and played a big part in the restoration and up-keep of the school building. William W. Jones and Susan Ellis Jones are both buried in the Arkana Cemetery.

2. THOMAS L. JONES was married to **AMANDA MELVINA SMITH**, a daughter of **HENSLEY SMITH** of the Shady Grove Community. They were the parents of seven children, and lived on the North Fork River near today's Norfolk Dam.

3. GEORGE A.F. JONES married **VERENER STEPHENS** from the Buford community. He lived on his land by Big Creek which was near his father's place. He worked at the grist mill, farmed, taught school part of the time, and after the death of his father, this family moved to Marlowe, Oklahoma, where they established a general store and other businesses.

4. LOURANA ORENA JONES married **JAMES BAILEY SCHOGGEN** who was a school teacher and also served two terms as Tax Assessor of Baxter County, 1892 to 1896. They had six children and adopted an orphan girl.

5. JOHN ANDREW JACKSON JONES married **Susan B. Fricks**. They lived on a farm near his father's homestead. They had two sons. John A.J. Jones was killed when a tree he was cutting fell on him. His son, **Willie**, died in a similar accident a few years later.

6. CALVIN FREEMAN "CALLIE" JONES married **LAURA SIANA VICKREY MCCORMACK** in January, 1891. Laura was a widow with two children. Callie and Laura went by wagon and team to Melbourne to get married. They apparently lived on the land that Laura got the patent into her name after the death of her first husband, **Ephriam McCormack**. They later lived on his father's

homestead and farmed, and moved to another farm they owned which joined the Oak Grove church, cemetery, and school properties. They remained on this place the rest of their lives. Laura had the misfortune of losing her eyesight, and spent many years with this handicap. She amazed folks with her ability to do her own cooking and other housework. Her husband stretched a wire to the chicken house that she could follow so she could take care of the chickens and pick up the eggs. She was an inspiration, and was loved by all who knew her. The children of Callie and Laura were as follows:

6a. LUNA JONES married **LEE THORN**. Their children were **ROY THORN, ELVA THORN, ELSIE THORN** and **FRANCES THORN**.

6b. LENA JONES married **EDMOND DEE JACKSON**. Their sons were **KENNETH JACKSON** and **HOWARD JACKSON**.

6c. JESSIE JONES married **LESLIE ROBERTSON**. Their children were **NADINE ROBERTSON, J.C. ROBERTSON, LLOYD ROBERTSON, EUGENE ROBERTSON, DEAN ROBERTSON, DORIS ROBERTSON** and **DOYLE ROBERTSON**.

6d. JOHNNIE JONES married **GRACE WARD**. Their daughters were **LAVON JONES**, who married **WARNER SCHNAKENBURG**, and **LAVERNE JONES**, who married **NOBEL P. TALBURT, JR.** Johnnie and Grace became the owners of the George Washington Jones homestead and farmed the land. Lavon and

Laverne attended Oak Grove School, as did their father some years before them. After the girls were gone from home, Johnnie and Grace continued operating the farm until the early 1970s, when failing health began taking its toll. As Christmas was approaching Kenneth Jackson wanted his mother, Lena, and her sister, Jessie, to spend the day with Johnnie and Grace. The entire dinner would be brought by Kenneth. (Editor's note: Probably after being prepared by Stella!). As dinner was about to be served, Lavon drove up to the gate. She had left Kansas City early that morning to get there in time to fix them something for Christmas dinner and was wondering what that would be. This would be the last time the brother and sister would be together, as Johnnie and Grace moved to Kansas City to be near Lavon. Johnnie died in 1978, and Grace passed away in 1982. Some time passed before Lavon and Lavern decided to sell the old homestead, their home for many years. They sold the farm to Dr. Ray Stahl.

The old homestead began to take on a new look, as brush was cleared, fences re-built, and other improvements made. At last the old house must go. It was stripped of the added rooms, the roof, down to the logs that George Washington Jones had brought in by oxen drawn wagons. Dr. Stahl saw the historical value of the home of these early settlers and was kind enough to donate the materials to the historical society to be reconstructed in Rapp's Barren Pioneer Settlement. As all can see, wonderful restoration progress is being made and all involved should be highly commended.

Baxter County Historical and Genealogical Society Mountain Home, AR

President: Charles Blackburn, 321 S. College Street, Mountain Home, AR 72653
Phone (870) 425-0405

Vice President: F. Gene Garr, 1505 Mistletoe, Mountain Home, AR 72653
Phone (870) 425-0405, **E-mail: mermaid@centuryinter.net**

Board of Directors: Becky Baker, P.O. Box 44, Mountain Home, AR 72654
Phone (870) 425-4332

Kevin Bodenhamer, 610 Western Hills Loop, Mountain Home, AR 72653
Phone (870) 425-5647, **E-mail: cen31084@centuryinter.net**

Garvin Carroll, 316 Justice Court, Mountain Home, AR 72653
Phone (870) 425-2881, **E-mail: nivrag@centuryinter.net**

Evelyn Denton, Rt 2 Box 264, Gassville, AR 72635
Phone (870) 430-5334

Margie Garr, 1505 Mistletoe, Mountain Home, AR 72653
Phone (870) 425-0405, **E-mail: mermaid@centuryinter.net**

Dr. James Lowe, 1500 Manor, Mountain Home, AR 72653
Phone (870) 425-9774, **E-mail: imojlowe@centuryinter.net**

Judi Ramey Sharp, 216 County Road 28, Mountain Home, AR 72653
Phone (870) 492-4483, **E-mail: noarweb@mtnhome.com**

Sonny Sharp, 216 County Road 28, Mountain Home, AR 72653
Phone (870) 492-4483, **E-mail: sonny@thehistorybook.com**

Secretary: Dorothy Messick, 206 Nelson Av, Mountain Home, Arkansas 72653
Phone (870) 425-4502

Treasurer: Stella Jackson, 455 CR 619 Mtn. Home, Arkansas 72653
Phone (870) 425-4699

Editor: Sonny Sharp, P.O. Box 1611, Mountain Home, AR 72654-1611
Phone: (870) 492-4483, **E-mail: sonny@thehistorybook.com**

The society meets every fourth Tuesday of the month at locations throughout the county. Meetings are announced as community news in the Baxter Bulletin, and radio stations KTLO am/fm, KCTT fm, KPFM/KKTZ. and local cable channel 5. For more information call any of the above officers or board members.

Postmaster - Return Postage Guaranteed
Baxter County Historical & Genealogical Society, Inc.
Box 1611
Mountain. Home, AR72654

PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
MOUNTAIN HOME
ARKANSAS
PERMIT NO. 27

MESSICK DOROTHY
206 NELSON
MTN HOME AR 72653

12/1999

Check your address label! Are your dues due?
If so, pay Stella!