

# Baxter County History



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

Photo courtesy of Ray Grass

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BAXTER COUNTY HISTORY

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PROGRESS OF THE BAXTER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
Hazen Bonow - Historian

July 7, 1981

Garvin Carroll introduced the guest speaker, Charles Butcher, a friend of his and Quinby Smiths. Garvin has known Charley for 31 years. Charley Butcher came to Mountain Home in 1944 and was with the Corps of Engineers until he retired 2 years ago.

Charley became well acquainted with Mr. Keller who was an excellent photographer. Later Mr. Keller's negatives were given to him to use. In 1965, Pete Shiras, who represented the Bulletin asked Charley to start a series of pictures for the paper titled "A Look At Yesteryear."

The excellent pictures which Charley had were of "Old Mountain Home" taken in the business area, mostly commercial.

He started with showing the Old Baptist College and the Girl's dormitory. Later it became the Morton Hotel. Baptist College was operated until 1930. There was a close-up of the College which was torn down about 1964. Pictures that followed were: streets around the square with crowds, the old Bank in the 20's or 30's (now the Otasco Store), the Sam Clark Building - now was Dr. Chambers.

The projector became too hot for the pictures so they were passed around as Charley described the scenes. These were: the telephone building and an operator (the telephones were on both trees and posts), M. E. Curlee, Real Estate and old cars (1930's) on the West side of the square, the two Courthouses - the present one built in 1943. The first gas station, Ford sales and Service (behind Rowlands) and the cotton gin (near Home Bakery), Ozark Cafe, on the corner and the first airplane - bi-plane - to land here, about where the Bowling Lane is now.

Then the Post Office, Model T Fords and the Sunday get-to-gether of horses and buggies. The 1927 flood at Cotter, mowing hag and drag, shipment of new Fords and the Baptism at Dodd Creek on the West Road and the Old Christian Church.

Charley has some larger pictures which he plans to place on exhibit sometime in the future.

The program was informal and enjoyed by all present.

August 4, 1981

Quinby Smith announced the hiring of Jeff Hunt to work on the Casey house and also supervise a few High School boys who will help him. Quinby hopes to get floors, walls, window frames and doors in shape and the outside painted with some volunteers helping. The Twin Lakes Real Estate have promised cooperation.

Quinby then introduced our speaker, Howard Baker. The scheduled program of Mr. Clinkingbeard was cancelled and Howard Baker was kind enough to fill in on the subject of the Pharmacy business and its changes. His education and experience intitles him to be called Dr. Baker.

The drug store of Howard Baker is on the North side of the square where he has been for 28 years. He studied the "Remington Practice of Pharmacy" on the GI Bill and also learned a lot from his father who had a drug store at Marshall, Arkansas.

The use of drugs is an old practice. Found in a tomb was an early prescription on papyras paper which could be filled today. Medicines were used before the time of Christ and when Jesus was on the cross, he was offered a sponge saturated with a pain killer which he refused.

In the early days leeches were used to draw blood and the barbers poles indicated they were bloodletters. There were home remedies, one was for whooping cough - garlic applied in wool. Sugar and turpentine was also used for coughs. Vicks salve was also an early medication.

The Civil War saw an advance in medication because of the necessity to treat wounds and ailments. To stop bleeding, charcoal and cobwebs were used.

"Natures Healing Art" was medicine ground by hand and Dr. Baker is the only pharmacist in Mountain Home who will compound a prescription.

In Marshall in his Dad's drug store the Coca Cola came in 55 gallon wood kegs with a spigot. In the soda fountain there was a cradle- a drum for carbonating water. Wild Cherry, some codiene and a bit of acacia emulsion was made for cough syrup.

In 1933 Howard Baker worked for Mr. Short where he learned a lot. He also worked at his Uncles drug store from May to September, while attending College, and was paid by a \$100 bill and a Shaffer Fountain Pen. This was a lot in those days.

When Mr. Baker came to Mtn. Home there were three drug stores: Morgans, who sold, Coopers, who sold, and Bakers, still in business and is needed for he is the only pharماسist who can compound prescriptions.

We are fortunate, says Dr. Baker, to have such good medicines available. He does not recommend Generic products as they are of questionable quality. The F.D.A. is very lax.

Everyone enjoyed the evening and thanked Howard Baker for all the information and his kindness in giving our program on such short notice.

Thirteenth in a series on Cemeteries in Baxter County, Arkansas by D. Garvin Carroll.

This Cemetery is located on the farm once owned by the Bryant Family. It is now owned by Carl Sheid of Mountain Home, Arkansas, and is located across the river South of Mountain Home,

NAME	BORN	DIED
Hooser, Robert H.	June 15, 1885	July 30, 1886
Hooser, J. D. "LET OUR FATHERS WILL BE DONE"	Jan. 8, 1846	Aug. 20, 1898
Hooser, George W.	Nov. 1, 1879	Aug. 4, 1885

The above graves are inside a concrete wall, approx. three feet high by ten inches wide.

There are three unmarked graves inside the wall and three unmarked graves outside.

\* \* \* \* \*

The following is from an enrollment ledger for the Bean School on the Barren Creek in Gamaliel, Ark.

DAILY RECORD of Pupils Attending Public School in School District No. 2 in the County of Baxter and State of Arkansas. Term Commencing July 9, 1906 and Ending Sept. 28, 1906. Ethel Teverbaugh - Teacher

Luther George	19 (age)	Rena Davidson	14
Herbert George	17	Hepsia Davidson	11
Mabel George	15	Sidney Hughes	11
Mattie George	12	Salley Hughes	5
Edith Teverbaugh	11	Enoch Hughes	16
Virgil Teverbaugh	9		
Dewey Teverbaugh	8		
Stella Teverbaugh	6		
Charley Boaz	16		
Ruth Boaz	11		
Lecta Bean	15		
Virgie Bean	10		
Ray Bean	7		
Ralph Bean	9		
Euphia Wells	10		
Cuba Bean	5		
Kelsa Bean	6		
Clara Henson	11		
Ida Davidson	8		
Wash. Davidson	10		

Term Commencing November 26, 1906 and Ending January 19, 1907.  
Mollie Wright - Teacher

Edith Teverbaugh	11	Euphia Wells	11
Virgie Teverbaugh	10	Salley Hughes	5
Dewey Teverbaugh	8	Sidney Hughes	11
Stella Teverbaugh	6	Clara Kibby	11
Herbert George	18	Roy Kibby	6
Mabel George	15	Willie Popejoy	11
Mattie George	12	Eva Popejoy	7
Ralph Bean	10	Bevelly Kibby	11

Term Commencing July 15, 1907 and Ending Approx. Sept. 30, 1907.  
Luther George - Teacher

Cuba Bean	6	Dewey Teverbaugh	9
Edna Bean	8	Ralph Bean	11
Ida Davidson	8	Mabel George	16
Washington Davidson	10	Mattie George	14
Alex Boaz	7	Charlie Boaz	17
Stella Teverbaugh	7	Kelsa Bean	6
Crrenia Davidson	15	Pettie Bean	5
Hepsie Davidson	13	Luther Bean	6
Roy Bean	11	Enoch Hughes	17
Milliard Payne	14	Roy Kibbe	7
Edith Teverbaugh	12	Clara Kibbe	11
Ruth Boaz	12	Herbert George	19
Euphia Wells	11	Alask Kibbe	4
Virgie Teverbaugh	10	Sidney Hughes	12
Ada Bean	13	Sallie Hughes	7
Oscar Payne	17		

Term Commencing July 13, 1908 and Ending Approx. Sept. 15, 1908.  
Luther George - Teacher

Cuba Bean	7	Maggie Crawford	18
Pettie Bean	6	Sidney Hughes	13
Stella Teverbaugh	8	Ralph Bean	11
Sallie Hughes	8	Earnest Felton	7
Virgie Teverbaugh	11	Roy Bean	11
Euphia Wells	12	Luther Bean	8
Artie Felton	9	Wash. Davidson	11
Ida Davidson	9	Kelsa Bean	8
Arrenia Davidson	16	Enoch Hughes	18
Ada Bean	14	Melvin Payne	14
Ethel Felton	13	Dewey Teverbaugh	10
Edna Bean	8	Charley Boaz	18
Hepsie Davidson	13	Alex Boaz	8
Editha Teverbaugh	13	Frank Davidson	6
Mabel George	17	Oscar Payne	18
Mattie George	16	Ruth Boaz	10
Bulah Felton	15	Sallie Teverbaugh	6

Term Commencing November 30, 1908 and Ending February 19, 1909.  
Luther George - Teacher

Enoch Hughes	18	Stella Teverbaugh	9
Ralph Bean	12	Cuba Bean	7
Dewey Teverbaugh	10	Ada Bean	15
Melvin Payne	15	Edna Bean	10
Alex Boaz	8	Roy Bean	12
Matt Burhus	22	Luther Bean	9
Sidney Hughes	14	Ida Davidson	16
Charley Boaz	18	Hepsie Davidson	14
Mattie George	15	Edna Davidson	16
Mabel George	17	Wash. Davidson	11
Rachel Hughes	20	Frank Davidson	7
Virgie Teverbaugh	12	Euphia Wells	13
Edith Teverbaugh	13	Della Bean	6
Ruth Boaz	13	Dean Davidson	21
Sallie Hughes	8	Oscar Payne	19

Term Commencing July 12, 1909 and Ending October 1, 1909.  
Hattie Simpson - Teacher

Maye George	18	Frank Davidson	8
Mattie George	16	Charlie Boaz	19
Edith Teverbaugh	14	Ruth Boaz	14
Virgie Teverbaugh	12	Alex Boaz	8
Sallie Teverbaugh	6	Rachel Hughes	21
Stella Teverbaugh	9	Enoch Hughes	19
Dewey Teverbaugh	11	Sidney Hughes	14
Euphia Wells	13	Oscar Payne	19
Sallie Hughes	8	Melvin Payne	15
Cuba Bean	8	Ada Bean	16
Ralph Bean	12	Roy Bean	13
Wash Davidson	12	Luther Bean	9
Rena Davidson	17	Edna Bean	11
Hepsie Davidson	14	Della Bean	7
Ida Davidson	10	Maggie Crawford	19

There are four more terms recorded in the ledger and these will be continued in the next "History".

The courses taught were listed as follows:

Orthography	English Grammar
Reading	Geography
Mental Arithmetic	Penmanship
Written Arithmetic	History of the United States

The following is the last continued portion from an article written by A. C. Jeffery for the Melbourne Clipper in 1877. The complete article has been copied as is from the "Wolf Family History" journal.

Two brothers of the Finley family first came to the White River valley, bringing their families and a pretty large negro property. They came from Georgia and settled in the vicinity of Batesville, and old Uz settled first in Lawrence county but afterwards moved to White River in IZARD county. Old Uz Finley's boys were Bill, Zach, and Charles. The old man had an old negro named Bosen. He and Bosen both lived to be very old. In their old days, Uz would go to the election and get drunk. He would take Bosen along to take care of him, and Bosen would never fail to get drunk too. Old Uz was a small man, very witty, very good-humored and laughed a great deal. He was grandfather to the present Clerk of IZARD county, and a facsimile of the laughs and jokes which amused the boys on White river 50 years ago may now be seen about the clerk's office in Melbourne. On one occasion old John Carter, who was also a very witty, good-humored man, and Uz Finley, were both very old and both wading a wide swath at the election. Finally they fell out and wanted to fight but the bystanders wouldn't let them. Finally Old Uz commanded Mr. Carter to stand and let him curse him. Mr. Carter, with his hat off, about ten paces in front, notified Mr. Finley to proceed. Mr. Finley, with his hat in his hand, commenced: "Mr. Carter, if this earth were one piece of parchment, and the sea one basin of ink and every quill upon earth were one quill, and I had the power to use that pen--that ink--and that parchment, I would fall far short, sir, of being able to describe the corruption of your damned old heart, sir." Mr. Carter stood silent until he had closed, when he commanded Mr. Finley to "stand sir, till I curse you." Mr. Finley bowed his head and Mr. Carter commended: "Mr. Finley, had I all the talents ever produced in Europe and America combined in one solid phalanx and was to undertake to speak of you, I would fall far short of describing the corruption of your damned old heart, sir." This ended the affray and they were both ready to take something to drink again.

The Harris family, consisting of the widow Harris, three sons: Henry, Jim and Dick, and one daughter, the family of a wealthy planter near Augusta, Ga., came west at an early day perhaps as early 1815 and settled near Fredericktown, Mo. Here the widow had another son, Augustus, by a man named Watkins. They then came to Lawrence county, and a part of them to Independence, but finally they concentrated in Harris Bottom, in IZARD county (now Stone). They were all exemplary citizens and James A. Harris, father of the present clerk of IZARD, served as sheriff of IZARD county and Judge of the County and Probate Court of IZARD county. Henry and James died before the war; Richard died from wanton abuse from the Federal army; Augustus died soon after the war. Of this large family of four brothers and one sister and their children, there are but three children now living in IZARD county. During the reunion of the Harris' in Harris Bottom they devoted themselves a great deal to the cause of religion. They and their households and servants were members of the Methodist church: with old Cannon Camp ground centrally situated between them, was a nucleus for a wide gospel spread. We remember to have seen more than 100 souls praising God aloud at these meetings at one time.



The Bean and Miller families came to White River valley at a very early day; a part of them came, perhaps before the organization of Arkansas territory. The Beans were Bob, Mark, Dick and Jess. Bob Bean seemed to be a river man and a trader. He left the country at an early day for South America. Mark Bean went farther west and settled near Cane Hill in Washington county. Jess Bean remained near Batesville until his death. The Miller family were John and Jess. John was a merchant's clerk at Davidsonville. The Millers and Beans formed a settlement around the mouth of Polk Bayou, before the organization of Independence county, and were likely the attracting influence that took the county seat to that place. Their original country is not certainly known; more than likely they were pioneers in East Tennessee. They have all passed away from this country and perhaps from this world, except Col. John G. Miller who now lives near Batesville, and old and respected citizen. We have only seen him a few times in life and pronounced him a man of extraordinary nerve and talents. In viewing him on a bender, we were reminded of Caesar's views of Cassius--"Would that he were fatter; but I fear him not. Yet, if my name were liable to fear, I do not know the man I should avoid so soon as that spare Cassius."

Col. John Miller has lived to raise a son, native born, and see him inaugurated Governor of Arkansas.

About the year 1818, John Milligan, a young beardless boy, about 18 years old, wandered west from Wheeling, Virginia, and took up in the valley of White river. He had been brought up to the tanner's trade and was a fair English scholar. He stopped in Lawrence County and married Eda Ragsdell of the Jeffery family, who was also very young. Milligan commenced drinking and the young couple soon began disagreeing and parted. He acted badly and strolled away. After some time he took sick high up on White river and came near dying. As soon as he could travel he started back to the "girl he left behind him." He got as far as Jehoida Jeffery's on White river and tried to borrow a horse to go home on; he received a severe rebuke for his conduct, but got no horse. Milligan started on foot, sick and in tears; scorched with fever, he lay down by the side of a dim path at the place, head of what is known as Two-mile branch, in a thick cedar brake, to die. In this forlorn condition he made vows to a dim path at the head of what is his God, which we have heard him assert in his old days he never allowed himself to depart from. He went back to his wife, set up a tan yard, and went to work. He joined the Cumberland Presbyterian church and went to preaching. Old age found him an old man, his old woman and a half-grown boy at home, and a host of grown sons out battling for their country under Dixie's flag. Early in the year 1864, while the demon's hell seemed to reign in great triumph all over this country, this old man and woman and their boy sat around their winter fire at night; four young men abruptly thrust themselves into his room with cocked pistols presented in his face, demanded his money. Without betraying much alarm the old man remonstrated with such logic that they turned from him to the boy, threw a skillet in the fire; as soon as it was red hot they stripped the boy's feet and swore they would burn him off to the knees if he didn't show the money. The old man bore it until he saw his boy's feet almost in the sparkling vessel and heard his screams, when he told them to hold. He then took a light and showed them where to dig in a stable. They dug up a vessel of gold and silver money. The old man asked them what kind of an excuse they would

render at the bar of God when they got there. They snatched the bucket, blew out the light, and ran away in the dark. The old man died soon after believing he recognised the favor of the robbers, and communicated his belief to his friends. John Milligan had served as a member of the Legislature from his county. He was an exemplary citizen and his life teaches the great impropriety of wholly discarding youth, altho they be in error.

John Ruddell, a character of considerable note in the early settlement of this valley grew up in the vicinity of New Madrid, Missouri, and was there when the county blew up in the earthquake in 1811. His father was a man of some property, but becoming involved, he put it in John's hands to hold--the old man accused John of holding it for good, which caused a split between them and John and his uncle, Old Abe Ruddell, came to Batesville about the first beginning of that place. John Ruddell accumulated a large fortune, lived to be very old, and to see his fortune vanish in the late rebellion. He was a warm hearted friend, a man of strong intelligence, which seemed to be directed in the channel of accumulation, often to the detriment of other virtues. He prided himself, even in his old days, in habits of temperance, industry and great frugality, and strict adherence to backwoods customs. These peculiarities in a rich man called for a great many anecdotes. One of these was: It was said of him, he nor his negroes had any meat to eat; one morning he smelt meat cooking; he had an old negro woman named Sally, whose cabin was some 80 yards off: he called out in a loud voice, "Sally, what is that burning?" "A piece of meat skin, Massa, I found and am broiling on the coals." "Well," he said, "save the sop, Sally." One occasion it was said of him he was very sick, very near dying, and had the doctors attending him. For some time he was not able to get out of bed, and before he had taken sick he had been talking with a man about trading for an ass. While he was yet very bad the man came and brought the animal. He ordered the negroes to bring it into his room, which they did, and led it up to his bedside. He made them open its mouth so he could see its teeth. He told the man it would do and he would take it.

Old Abe Ruddell was captured by the Indians in the early settling of Kentucky while a small boy, and was not changed or given up until nearly grown. He talked very broken and always had a wild Indian appearance, shunned company, except his intimate acquaintances. One occasion he went to witness a ball when some compliments were paid to a young lady dancer's foot and ankle while dancing: "Yes," said Old Abe, "look jes like pins stuck in pumpkin seed." He and old John both lived to be very old and died near Batesville.

The society and habits of a country are continually under going a change. These changes sometimes, through force of circumstances, are very suddenly precipitated upon a country, whilst at others they are so gradual that they are scarcely observable by a careless observer. From our personal observation we have thought proper to divide these changes into four decades or periods in which the mould of society was materially changed in each period, allowing 5 years to change from one period to another. For a time, from the beginning of white settlements in the valley of White river until 1815 to 1820, we will name the first period, allowing these latter 5 years to affect the revolution. During the first period the inhabitants were a promiscuous mass of hunters, trappers, stock raisers, murderers, robbers and runaway rogues and bankrupts.

You will see this first period found the valley of White River with quite a run of immigrants without the restriction of law or the fear of God before their eyes, and every man his own law. It must be observed, however, that a predominance of sterling intellect prevailed amongst this class of pioneers, accompanied in many instances with education. Of the prominent families composing the mass, we will mention the Yochums, the Friends, the Bryants, the Trimble brothers, the Hawthorns, the Ramseys, the Partees, the Irons, the Lafferties and the Carters, in advance of whom was the Falenash family. The Yochums and Friends were perhaps North Carolinians, the Cokers and Sneys, East Tennesseans, and Falenash a Frenchman. Many of those early pioneers received the ushering of the second period with acclamations of joy and fell into the grand march of civilization under the law, while others "preferring darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil" like owls and bats at the approach of day, flew to the rocks and caves to hide themselves.

Of the very first stand bearers of law and order who planted their colors on the banks of White River, may be mentioned Rev. George Gill, Robert Livingston, Col. Stewart, Judge Jeffery, Col. John Miller, Jess Miller, Capt. Jess Bean, Bob Bean, Mark Bean and Dick Bean, of this noble crew. They have all run their race and sleep with their fathers but Col. John Miller of Batesville, whom we are informed at this time is in his 80th year. This inauguration of the second grand period in society in the valley of White River was very rapidly reinforced by such families as the Wolfs, the Adams, and Dick Hutchinsons, the Hartgraves, the Talberts, the Langstons, the Hightowers, the Lancasters, the Creswells, the Harris's, the Magness, the Allens, the Finleys, the Tinnins, the Walkers, James Wren and Maj. Wough, and a host of others. This tide of emigration continued to flow with great rapidity into this valley until about 1830, when the influx seemed to abate. This was, no doubt, on account of the opening of new fields in western Tennessee, in Mississippi, and finally in eastern Texas. These early settlements were generally confined to the river and water courses until they became so well settled. It will be observed that these inhabitants were nearly all from Virginia, the Carolinas, Georgia, Kentucky, and Tennessee. With a great similarity in their habits, manners and customs, the most of whom were in easy circumstances, society naturally took a mould of its own throughout the valley, which lasted unbroken until the end of the second period, which to some extent surrendered up its existence from the year 1845 to 1850, which we style the class of the second period. The third period in the model of society, and more especially in Izard county, lasted until the year 1860 and 1865, from which time this country underwent another greater change in society, which carried us into the fourth period. These changes in society, no doubt, were often for the better, but we regret to have it to say, were not always so, and as the purest days of government of the U. S. was in its early existence in like manner. We do claim the purest days of the valley of White River and more especially Izard county, principally included in this second period of her existence.

In these golden days the country people were engaged in the cultivation of the soil, the raising of fine live stock, wheat, corn, pork and bacon, the beef cattle accumulated in large quantities which found a market in New Orleans by being floated away in flat bottomed boats. This was done by the farmer himself, or by the river trader, as he chose, and supplies brought back by means of keel boats.

In these days of chivalry in the territory, and more especially in the valley of White River, what men said they would do they intended to do. The legal ability of the territory was composed of such men as the Johnsons of Kentucky, Chester Ashley, Robert Crittenden, Townsend Dickinson, the Conways, David Walker and a host of others, who would compare favorably with any place or any time.

The valley of White River had such legal ability as Dickinson, Dave Walker, Desha, Searcy, Pope Denton, Curray, and finally William Byers which composed as able as this valley ever produced. About the year 1827, a revival of religion commenced under the preaching of the Baptist, the Methodist and Cumberland Presbyterian churches, which continued to spread until it covered the whole inhabited valley of White River, and until almost everybody was either religious or strictly moral. The ministerial ability in those days seemed to be of the highest grade of wisdom of education and deep piety. It was not the custom in those days to preach the other denominations to hell, and allow the sinner to go scot-free. This gospel spread showed no signs of relaxation until about the close of the second period. In those old time days the boys and young men didn't all betake themselves to professions and only such beardless boys were called doctor or lawyer who after strict trial and due examination were found worthy. During the palmy days of this second period a pictorial magazine and fashion plate was not a necessity in every well regulated family in the country. We remember to have seen young ladies who were able and did dress in the finest apparel, who were heir to their thousands, appear in church in afternoon service, attired in goods of their own manufacture, displaying the rich colors of turkey red and blue. They were beautiful "for all that, for all that."

"Their sweetness unmingled, their manners refined,  
And virtue's bright image instamped on their mind,  
The grace of form shall awake pure desire,  
And the charms of the soul ever cherish the fire."

The Creswell family, who placed a very important part in the early settlement of White River Valley, as well as the early settlement of IZARD county, was Irish blood. Two brothers of that family, left Carolina at a very early date, each with a large family and considerable number of slaves. They stopped for a time on lower Cumberland river, but finally came to Lawrence county in this territory, perhaps as early as 1820. Old Jim Creswell, son of one of the original families, and old Aunt Jane Creswell, widow of the other family, and her sons Davis, Bill, Ambrose and Harve, came to White River perhaps as early as 1824, and settled at and near the mouth of Rocky Bayou. They were good citizens in their day and time, in easy circumstances, upon rich land, with force to cultivate it. They devoted their time to farming and stock raising, very rarely aspired to any political distinction. They certainly enjoyed life to its fullest extent. Old Aunt Jane was a very remarkable woman, with strong native intellect and well skilled in business. She would manage her plantation and hands with as much skill and judgment as most men. Her maiden name was Lytle, and was also Irish. She was a severe looking woman, flattered nobody but simply said what she thought; yet she was a kind-hearted old lady, McCoy, who had been denied the privilege of her daughter's company in a very uncerimonious manner, used to say of old Aunt Jane that if he were in a room with two doors to it, and she were to appear at one door and the Devil at the other, he would be unable to decide which to break out by. Old Jim Creswell lived at the

mouth of Rocky Bayou. He was a large fleshy man, weighed about 225 pounds and a never-ending talker, and very antic and good-humored. At public gatherings he never failed to draw around him a crowd of laughers, more especially if he had a dram on board. The court house question which is now being so ably discussed in Izard county, is not a question exclusively of the present generation; we remember to have heard old Jim Creswell make a speech on this question before the county court at Athens when we were small boys. It seems they had built a new court house, a frame building one story high, 20 feet square, with a door in the east and one in the west side. The judges stood in the south side, and a vacancy left for a chimney on the north side. It was coming winter, and necessary to have a fire place; some extravagant parties, who were in favor of progress and improvement advocated the building of a stone chimney to the court house. They alleged that old Peter Young or old Col. Hess either were skilled in this kind of labor, and could build a chimney of stone that would look much better than one built of "stick and clay" and would last forever. Old Jim Creswell took very decided grounds against this measure in the speech referred to. He was opposed to grinding the people to death with taxes; and in favor of holding fast to old landmarks and building a "stick and clay" chimney. Old Jim's measure carried, the county built a stick and clay chimney.

Old man Walker was a neighbor to old Jim, and was also a very large man, weighing nearly 300 pounds. They were both very redfaced and showed signs of small pox. Bill Finley was a small man and stuttered. He used to say these two old men's noses "looked g-g-g-just like two big red s-s-weet potatoes the p-pigs had been g-g-g-nawin' on."

About the year 1840 the pneumonia or winter fever made its appearance on White River and proved fatal in many instances. It took hold among the Creswells and several of them died very suddenly, amongst whom was old Jim Creswell. The entire connection then left the river and settled on the head of Mill Creek and in the vicinity of La Crosse. After the country became thickly settled, old Davis and old Harve, (who was a very eccentric man) went to Texas. Old Harve said he would have to hunt a new country for the damned Tennessee renters had taken this country. The Creswell family were of the Methodist order, however, the older ones were not over much given to piety.

One other character who cut quite a figure in the early settlement of Izard county was Maj. Tom Culp, who was of Dutch descent, and grew up a penniless orphan boy about the city of Lexington, Kentucky, without the advantage of an education. He could barely read and write his name, yet if he had had the necessary advantage, he showed to be a natural orator, and having had the opportunity in his childhood days of sitting around and listening to the great lights which hovered around Lexington at that time, such as the Breckinridges, the Marshalls, Crittendans and Henry Clay, he imbibed the habit of mimicry in speaking which held to him during life. The master orator in his eye was Clay, and men who were used to hearing Clay said that Maj. Culp's political and pulpit exploits had all the flavor of Clay's.

Culp went west to Mexico, but came back to Lawrence county about the year 1822 and married Lavina Sams, a daughter of James Jeffery, and afterwards moved to White River. He was a Methodist preacher, a doctor and a politician, sat several sessions in the Legislature as a member from Izard. It was said of him that at one time, while in the Legislature a steamboat was approaching the landing and the House took a recess and

stood upon the bluff at the State House to see the boat land and as the boat rounded to with grandeur in front of the spectators, Maj. Culp remarked in a pompous, audible voice that "the conventions of men was great but the conventions of God greater." The murder of the king's English created quite a run of mirth in private circles and in the morning papers; Maj. Culp was a man of great and a talented preacher of the revivalist class. It was said of him that he could turn his hand to almost everything except making a fortune and making a crop. In those two undertakings he invariably failed. Maj. Tom Culp died on White river about the year 1844.

At a very early day in the settlement of the White river valley, it was thought by the early settlers that a band of robbers which was known to exist on White river had their general council ground on Negro Hill on lower White river. This hill is a knoll of land rising about 20 feet above high water mark and bordered on one side by White river and the balance of the way round by swamp and overflowed lands. This hill does not perhaps contain more than 40 acres of land and can be reached in high water only by water crafts. It is said that during the occupancy of this hill as a depot and council ground that there was an old negro called "Free Isaac" who lived there and acted as warehouse man and horseman; however at this time there is nothing either fully to deny or confirm these sayings. At the approach of the law and order in the valley, this organization gave way with a falling out among the parties, in which there was said to have been several men killed, Old Free Isaac was said to have been killed and burnt up on this hill in a log heap. If this was the case it was perhaps on account of some developments by him. It was from this circumstance that this hill took its name. A circumstance occurred about the year 1827 or 1828 which claims a notice in these sketches, which was the killing of Jeff Jones and young Jim Trimble, perhaps a son of old Bob. Both young men still in their prime twenties, between whom there seems to have been a grudge. They left the mouth of North Fork on horseback going down the south side of the river. Some days after Jim Trimble came to Partee's at the Hunt place, stayed several days, made some careless inquiries about Jeff's sons, whom he said had left him. He got some washing done, the girls afterwards told, in confidence that they had washed Jeff Jones' bloody clothes. Jeff Jones was never heard of anymore. He had friends and perhaps relatives who were greatly aroused. Jim Trimble was arrested and carried to Liberty Court and strongly guarded in a log house. One night Jim Trimble had laid down, and there being a crack near him he took a stool or bench and laid it on its edge between him and the crack. Sometime after there seemed to be an owl screech on a hill not far distant. The officers and guard all roused up, stood on their feet around the fire. Soon after a gun was fired in at the crack next to Jim Trimble; the ball passed through the bench and through Jim Trimble's body. He sprang to his feet and fell on the hearth dead. This was the close of the career of Jeff Jones and young Jim Trimble.

As late as the year 1830 there was a desperate character named Abb Garrison who roamed the valley of White River from head to mouth. He had killed a number of men in different localities and a great terror to the country. About three miles below the mouth of Little North Fork there lived a man named Bevins who was a rather harmless man and had a large family of small children. Abb Garrison was passing there one day and calling Bevins to the fence and shot him dead in the yard among his children and rode off with a great laugh as through he had played some

great joke. It was said that he had no provocation for the inhuman deed. He finally met his reward not long after this at Montgomery's Point above the mouth of White River. There was a man named Combie opened a farm, a cotton plantation on the bank of the Mississippi below the mouth of White River. Some threats had passed between with a determination on the part of each to take the other's life and as Abb Garrison attempted to snatch his pistol, it hung in his pocket, Combie seized him by the collar with his left hand and ran a bowie knife through Abb Garrison's body, who fell dead upon the spot. The termination of this affray was received with joy throughout the valley of White River.

As early as 1829 the people of IZARD County began to clamor for a division of the county, the territory of which included IZARD, Stone, FULTON, BAXTER, MARION, and SEARCY counties. Several efforts were made without effecting a division. Maj. Wolf was then in the Senate, and like other men was true to human nature and opposed a division because it would effect his own interests, the courts being at his place, a division would evidently remove the county seat. However, about the year 1834 an obscure character who lived in the present limits of Searcy county called "Big" Brown C. Roberts, appeared upon the field as a candidate for Representative upon the division ticket. He was a singular specimen of humanity--was said to be six foot three or four inches high--lead and bony; talked very loud and fluently, showed some sterling ability and was a good electioneerer. He was elected and he and Maj. Wolf quarreled the entire session. Brown C. Roberts, however, divided the county and made a new county called Marion, which included the territory of Marion, Searcy and a part of Baxter. Brown C. Roberts from this time forward was very popular and represented Marion for a few sessions, and finally again divided Marion and made a new county called Search in honor of Richard Searcy, a prominent lawyer of Batesville. Roberts was out off into Searcy county and represented that county until his death which was soon after.

Very soon after the division of IZARD the county seat was removed to Livingston Mills near the mouth of Piney Bayou. A river man and merchant of considerable note on White River by the name of Asa McFeetch located at the new town which was called Athens, and he did a very heavy mercantile business. Livingston and Hively ran two saws, two pair of ricks and a cotton gin by the renowned water power at that place. The courts were held here and the village contained about 50 families, which altogether made quite a business place and presented the most townlike appearance of any place which had ever sprung up in the county. However, the principal owners became involved--the property in law, which finally fell into foreign hands; IZARD county was again divided about the year 1843 and the new county called FULTON created. The Courts and county seat was then removed to Mt. Olive about the year 1846. The mills at Athens rotted down and at this writing the place wears the most wildernesslike appearance of any place in the county--nothing seen or heard to stir the heart of man except the roar of a water power which is capable of manufacturing all the wool and cotton produced in the country.

The county seat of Marion county was located on Crooked Creek and called Yellville, in honor of Archibald Yell, Governor of Arkansas; this location remains the county seat to the present time with very little molestation since the first location. The county seat of Searcy county was first located at a place called Lebanon; like IZARD, however, their county seat has been removed several times by reason of which their

towns have made small progress. After the laying out of Fulton county their first and only location for a county town was Salem which remains unmolested a prosperous little village. On the location of the county seat at Mt. Olive a contention arose among the people of Izard between Mt. Olive and Sylamore for a county seat, very desperate and extreme efforts were resorted to by the partisans on each side. This strife lasted for several years, in which feelings of bitterness and heart burnings were engendered among the very best citizens which lasted in many instances until obliterated by death. Internal commotions of this sort are demoralizing in their effect, and should be deplored by every good citizen. However, it has been and continues to be the fortune or misfortune as the case may be, of Izard county to be visited from the beginning to the end with these upheavings which have no doubt been a great drawback to the progress, improvement and good will of so great a county as old Izard evidently is. Izard is beyond doubt, one of the foremost counties in many respects in northern Arkansas. It was no doubt in view of scenes like the above that a very distinguished citizen of Izard county exclaims, "Our boasted greatness dwindles down to just about a mediocrity." Yet there is no denying the fact that outside of politics Izard is the banner county.

Asa McFletch, a river man and merchant, was a native of the State of Ohio and came to White River with a trading boat as early perhaps as 1826. He devoted himself to river trading and his field of operations were from Grand Glaize to the mouth of the Swan where the present site of Forsyth now is. It was his custom to buy all the produce he could on the river and in the winter or spring float it to New Orleans to market and bring back his goods by keel boats. At the beginning of his operations on occasions he brought a keel boat all the way from New Orleans up White River. After steamboats got to navigating the Mississippi, at an early date he married the daughter of old Jake Yocham and set up a trading post at the mouth of Swan. It was while living here that his wife and small child came very near being devoured by a bear. It would seem that his cabin, after the fashion of those days, was a log hut floored with puncheons, with a loft of boards and a ladder to go to the loft, stood immediately on the river bank, with a yard fence around it. There was a calf in the yard on the occasion referred to, and the woman and small child were at home alone. She heard a terrific noise on the other side of the river like wild animals fighting. Very soon she saw a large bear jump into the water and swim directly toward the house. He was pursued by two others to the water's edge where they turned back. She saw the swimming bear making directly toward the house, and she raised a puncheon of the floor, took the child and went under the floor. But not liking this situation, she came out and went up the ladder into the loft where she could watch the movements of the bear. He came out of the water and made for the house, came in and scented where the puncheon was up, and went into the hole, but soon came out and ascended up the ladder. He then turned and went into the yard where he killed the calf and carried it away, leaving the woman and child unhurt. The bear is known to be a very quiet animal while fat or in the fattening season. However, there is a time of year, about the month of August when they are poor. They then become very dangerous and are dreaded by the sternest hunters. Asa McFletch finally left Swan and afterwards moved to Athens and built a second large and costly mill below Livingston's mill. But it was so close that he could not get a head of water without drowning the other



mill, consequently this great outlay was a total loss. This and other losses broke him and he died soon after at Talbert's ferry in Marion county.

About the year 1830 Judge James Wren and the Hightowers came to IZARD county, from the vicinity of Bowling Green, Ky. Judge Wren has lived in IZARD County nearly a half century and had always been a man remarkable for habits of temperance, industry, frugality and even deportment. He has all the time been and now is an orderly-walking Christian of the Baptist order. It was through his instrumentality, about the year 1831 that he gathered together a few scattered Baptists and sent to Spring river for a minister and organized the first Baptist church ever organized in IZARD county. This organization took place near the mouth of Piney Bayou. Judge Wren never aspired a great deal to office. He was induced at one time, however, to accept the office of County and Probate Judge a term or two. When he came to IZARD county he brought a wife and six children, all of whom are living at this time. Of the host of men with families in IZARD county in 1830, Daniel Hively, Jesse Jeffery and James Wren, are the only ones alive at this writing (1877).

As Jehoida Jeffery was on his way to seek a home in the wilderness of White River on the 13th day of April, 1816, he had a second son born in the woods in southeast Missouri, near White River. This son was Miles Jeffery, a remarkable man in many respects, and a good citizen in his day and time. Notwithstanding he was born in the woods and raised in the wilderness, yet at the age of 30 he was a fair scholar and well posted in most of the English branches, and a man perhaps as well versed in general reading as could be found in IZARD county. Our young readers may imagine that it was an impossibility for young men who grew up in the valley to get an education, but such was not the fact however. These rare privileges were not so abundant as the present day. These opportunities, although few and scattering, were often of the very best grade but frequently attended with great labor, and "fat slick headed"---boys---boys "who slept at night" rarely ever derived any benefit from them. However, there was a class of boys who grew up in the valley of White River and who could do honor any time or any country. Of this might be mentioned the Adams boys, some of the Wolf boys, some of the Harris boys, some of the Jeffery boys, some of the Coker boys, some of the Miller boys, and many others. It was of this class of young men that Arkansas now has a Governor, whom she delights to honor; (Wm. R. Miller), it was of this class of boys that the subject of this sketch was. Miles Jeffery served for a time as sheriff of IZARD county, and member to the legislature, a true Christian of the Cumberland Presbyterian order. He died in early life, and his loss was regretted by a host of friends.

Note by Warren Wolf, 1936; A son of Miles, Richard J. Jeffery, married Miss Mabel Harris and is living near Fayetteville, Arkansas and his sons are in mercantile business in Fayetteville.