

Baxter County History



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

Photo courtesy of Ray Grass

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THE BAXTER COUNTY HISTORY

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Associate Membership \$ 2.50 per year

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Correspondence concerning membership dues, membership, orders for the "History", and other business matters should be sent to the Treasurer. Available back issues are \$ 1.25 each.

Contributions of material for the "History" should be sent to Howard M. Knight. These contributions are very much needed. They may include pictures. The originals will be returned to the contributor.

Neither the Society or the Editors assume any responsibility for statements made by the contributors.

ANNUAL DUES ARE DUE AND PAYABLE TO THE TREASURER AT THE JANUARY MEETING. The fiscal year begins January 1. New Members may join at any time.

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PROGRESS OF THE BAXTER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Hazen Bonow - Historian

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1st

We were fortunate to have excellent weather for our pot luck picnic at the Burnt School House. 25 members and guests all enjoyed a variety of good food.

Quinby Smith announced progress on the Casey House. The Fire Department are going to wash down the outside to prepare for a spray paint job, hopefully finished before the County Fair. Quinby asked for volunteers to help with the inside of the house, pulling out old nails, etc. Wallpaper samples were viewed to choose the appropriate pattern. The Historical Plaque was finished by Garvin Carroll and Quinby.

We were sorry to hear there is a vacancy for President and Editor, as Don Hubbell is now in Texas working.

No program was planned, but we all enjoyed visiting together and looking around the cemetery at the old tomb stones.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2nd

Dr. George Lankford, Associate Professor of Folklore and also in charge of regional programs at Arkansas College, Batesville, was our guest speaker for the combined meeting of the Baxter County Historical and Twin Lakes Archeology Societies. There were over 50 in attendance and they all enjoyed the exceptionally interesting program on "What does the Frontier look like in the dirt in the beginning?" Every year Dr. Lankford takes his students on a three days float trip on the Buffalo River, a great help in teaching folklore.

When coming into Mountain Home Dr. Lankford crossed the Norfork Dam for the first time and looking down at the Lake, he couldn't help thinking of the wells underneath the water, also the Bennett house on the Bennett Bayou. It was never dug and he thought of the lost historical science there.

Our area is a "hot-spot", a mystery area, and much could be learned by the historian looking for and reading old documents. The archeologist could then dig for evidence.

The White River Valley was completely complex, but was well known to the frontiersmen. In the 18th Century came the French who were fur traders and they were beloved by the Indians. Then came the Spanish as the French regime ended in 1763. The Spanish took over for 40 years. They wanted to attract settlers and gave land grants to anyone who would come. They wanted to stop the British from going to Mexico. Then came the British who were disliked.

The early farmers came about 1810. They were not all illiterate; many were well educated and financially well-to-do, but some men came also, fleeing from crime.

While giving the history, Dr. Lankford showed slides with maps and pictures of the area to illustrate their locations. When the official Government surveyors came they honored the Spanish land grants (about 1817).

There was a town of Davidsonville on the Black River which was the first county seat. The town lasted from 1815 to 1830 and as it was poor land, might be called "sickly country". The villagers moved up to Batesville, a much better location, but soon moved up to higher ground. Batesville was named for Bobby Bates, a tavern owner from 1820 on. They had an archeology dig where the tavern was thought to be located, but found very little, so they intend to have another dig close by.

A John Lafferty from Nashville had five sons. They were trained for keel travel and made trips on the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers. He had a daughter who married a Charles Kelly, whom he also trained. Kelly and one of his sons went to the White River Valley to hunt for a year and were very successful. He also bought some valuable land there, so John Lafferty then moved his family to the White River Valley. One son, Dow, couldn't stay home. He hunted with the Indians (Cherokee) and then became interested in Texas. He went to Texas, fought in the Battle of the Alamo, was captured and spent eight years in a Mexican prison. When he came home he had many stories to tell about Texas and Mexico. The Lafferty boys were leaders and became well known throughout the Valley. John Lafferty went to Texas, met his friend 'Andy' Jackson and fought with him in the Battle of New Orleans. Shortly after arriving back home he died.

There were eleven native nations represented here. Dr. Lankford suggested we learn more of the Cherokee story and their living in the area. He showed slides of the French houses which were built differently. They have vertical posts, different chimneys and used mulch and limey clay for mortar on their stones. He asked that we be on the lookout for this evidence.

* * * * *

PASTIMES

PAPER DOLLS

When I was a little girl the neighborhood kids would get together and spend whole afternoons playing "paper dolls".

We would cut our paper dolls out from our mothers' discarded pattern magazines such as McCall's, Butterick and Vogue.

We would cut out a whole family of dolls and keep them in a book, each member of a family separated with the pages, so when you went to your chum's house to play, you didn't have anything to carry but the book.

There would never be any men or boys in the fashion magazines so we cut the men out of the Sears Roebuck and Montgomery Ward catalogs.

We made furniture for the paper doll houses out of construction paper.

Alyce Marbury

GENEALOGICAL INFORMATION
BAXTER COUNTY, ARKANSAS

by
Joseph and Irma Bloom, Rt., 6, Mountain Home

BAXTER COUNTY MARRIAGES
March 22, 1896 to August 30, 1896

Parris Hargis to S. A. Bolding	March 22, 1896
W. F. Worthen to Mrs. Dixie McClure	March 24
Albert Darnell to Lizzie Daniels	
March 31 Affidavit for Marriage License	
Nathan Ware to Minnie A. Ellis	April 2
Marvin Williamson to Belle Mead	April 5
Baxter G. Halbert to Pink Cromwell	April 9
Joseph Estep to Sarah E. Cliner	April 13
N. J. Meyers to Mrs. Bettie J. Morris	April 23
N. Querry to Annie Evans	
April 27 Affidavit for Marriage License	
Andrew William to Effie Robertson	April 30
T. P. Cauley to Florence Jordan	April 30
Joe Haugh to Caroline Cunningham	May 8
L. C. Green to Jane Isom	May 10
J. L. Spencer to Sarah Franks	May 10
E. L. London to O. E. Hawkins	May 10
Wallis Hightower to Ada Anglin	May 14
G. G. Martin to Dollie Thrasher	May 24
Andrew J. Campbell to Nancy J. Coward	June 6
D. R. Robertson to Sallie Dixon	June 14
R. H. Funstall to S. R. Blankinship	June 15
R. H. Trimble to Margie Rambo	June 25
L. F. Eddings to Mary Tripp	June 28
R. H. Wolf to S. J. Hammock	June 28
J. C. Pate to Dollie Hodges	July 4
John Hall to Oshie Etheridge	July 5
David Lamb to Cloe Scott	July 19
Lewis Lawton to Nancy A. Smith	July 19
H. P. Anglin to Ida Samples	July 26
V. B. Ennis to Rebecca A. Cook	July 27
R. A. Wood to Joyce Williams	August 2
T. A. Mayfield to Ida McFarland	August 2
James Harris to Alberta Anglin	August 6
M. J. Kohr to Nellie J. Shelton	August 9
James Pearce to Sallie Clark	August 9
Ben Pinkston to Julie Keeney	August 10
J. W. Jennings to Ida Arnold	August 12
A. H. Galloway to Roxie Etheridge	August 16
C. J. Hickman to A. M. Lewis	August 16
John Mayfield to Narvie Hart	August 21
William Borks to Nellie Gordan	August 23
E. A. Starkey to Alice Foster	August 29
M. A. Newton to Maggie Dover	August 30

PHOTOGRAPHS

AT HOME OF COL. R. D. CASEY, MOUNTAIN HOME, ARKANSAS, CIRCA 1890

BACK ROW (L. to R.)

Mrs. J. B. Simpson, Mrs. J. M. Casey, Judge Sam Russell, I. M. Horton,
Miss Puss Carter, Dr. J. B. Simpson, Mrs. T. I. Hicks

SECOND ROW

Dr. J. M. Casey, R. C. Paul, Mrs. Z. M. Horton, Prof. A. J. Truman,
Col. O. L. Dodd, Mrs. R. D. Casey

THIRD ROW

Mrs. C. B. Paul, Irl Paul, Randolph Casey, Gertrude Simpson,
Lucille Horton, Annie Simpson, Col. R. D. Casey, John Simpson

FRONT ROW, SITTING

Hiram Casey, Hicks Simpson, Paul Horton, Sam Casey

The photograph was carefully sealed between glasses and framed by Ray Grass
and placed in the care of Quinby Smith for later exhibition at the

Casey House.

JEFFERSON DAVIS, GOVERNOR OF ARKANSAS,

commissioned A. A. WOLF as Treasurer of Baxter County on October 31, 1906.

The records show that A. A. Wolf served as Treasurer 1898-1902 and again
1906-1916.

He was succeeded in 1916 by J. E. L. COOPER who served 1917-1926.



STATE OF ARKANSAS



To All to Whom These Presents Shall Come--Greeting.

KNOW YE, THAT WHEREAS, It appears that
A. A. Wood was duly elected

...TREASURER...

in and for the County of *Baxter* in the
State of Arkansas, at an election held in said County on the 3rd day of Sep-
tember, 1906.

Therefore, I, JEFFERSON DAVIS, Governor of the State
of Arkansas, in the name and by the authority of the people of the State of
Arkansas, vested in me by the Constitution and Laws of said State, do here-
by commission him, the said *A. A. Wood*

Treasurer,
in and for the County aforesaid, for and during the term prescribed by the
laws of the State.

He, the said *A. A. Wood* is, therefore, hereby
authorized to do and perform all and singular the duties incumbent upon him
as said Treasurer, in and for the County aforesaid, according to law and
the trust reposed in him.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my
hand and caused the great seal of the State of
Arkansas to be affixed, at Little Rock, this 31st
day of October, in the Year of Our Lord One
Thousand Nine Hundred and Six.

BY THE GOVERNOR

Jeff Davis
A. A. Wood

FOURTEENTH IN A SERIES BY D. G. CARROLL. CEMETERIES IN
BAXTER COUNTY, ARKANSAS

MARTIN SPRINGS CEMETERY

This Cemetery is located approximately one mile west of Norfolk,
across the White River west and north of Sheid Bridge.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Born</u>	<u>Died</u>
<u>ADAMS</u>		
Joseph Martin Adams	1872	1965
Sarah V. Adams	1884	1963
<u>BOYD</u>		
Carrie L. Boyd	1889	no date
<u>HALE</u>		
Ruth Van Hale	1878	1939
<u>MARTIN</u>		
Annie M. Martin	1863	1939
F. S. Martin	Feb. 16, 1906	June 29, 1914
C. H. Martin	1849	1919
Hettie Martin	Mar. 6, 1865	Feb. 2, 1919
J. C. Martin	1815	1891
J. E. Martin	May 31, 1875	Aug. 15, 1919
John L. Martin	1862	1940
Joseph A. Martin	1870	1947
Kirby Martin	June 12, 1910	Sept. 16, 1916
Kiziah Martin (wife of John)	no date	no date
Maggie C. Martin	1870	1940
Martha Martin	1823	1885
Mary Ellen Martin	Jan. 16, 1877	Mar. 18, 1933
Minnie Lee Martin	Aug. 9, 1879	Nov. 10, 1943
Nancy T. Martin	1858	1921
Richard C. Martin	1860	1934
Robert Martin	1875	1919
Susan M. Martin	1836	1886
Thomas D. Martin	1825	1871
<u>PERRY</u>		
Thomas H. Perry	Feb. 4, 1879	Oct. 16, 1879
<u>RAYMOND</u>		
Walter Presley Raymond	1874	1960
<u>STURGEON</u>		
Robert Lee Sturgeon	1899	1900
<u>TATE</u>		
Ann E. Tate	Sept. 2, 1841	Feb. 8, 1897

UNKNOWN CEMETERY CLOSE TO MARTIN SPRINGS

<u>MARTIN</u>		
Mrs. Lucy A. Martin	May 20, 1877	Jan. 28, 1911

TRAIL OF TEARS MARKER

Two periods of Baxter County's history are being commemorated by the County Historical Society which placed a plaque marking a portion of the Old Military Road, the first thoroughfare through this area. The marker is located on the Hart Cemetery grounds at the intersection of State Highway 5 South and Old Highway 5. Built in 1830 by U. S. soldiers moving members of the Cherokee tribe from their homes in Tennessee and Arkansas, the old road drew the appellation "Trail of Tears" as a result of the Indians' forced march to Oklahoma. Also referred to at times as the Old Jacksonport Road, it ran from Memphis through Jacksonport (now Newport) and Batesville, and in what is now Baxter County traversed the Whiteville community and crossed the White River at Talbert's Ferry, near the present town of Cotter.

-Baxter Bulletin, Oct. 29, 1981

HOW TO PRONOUNCE ARKANSAS!

By Ernie Deane

The question was put to me more than 10 years ago, by a visitor to the Ozarks country, "Why is it that the pronunciation Arkansaw is used for your state's name? Shouldn't it be the same as in Kansas?" The question persists, and so does the confusion, especially because people in Arkansas customarily are referred to as Arkansans.

So much time has passed, and so many folks from so many places have moved into Arkansas in recent times, the time seems ripe to repeat the explanation for the Arkansaw pronunciation.

The difficulty started away back in 1673. That's when the Frenchmen, Jacques Marquette and Louis Joliet, set out down the Mississippi River in canoes. Along the way, they learned of a tribe downstream whose name, recorded by Marquette, was by his spelling the Arkanseas. That was the beginning of a long list of somewhat different spellings used by explorers, travelers, traders, etc., in the following years, to say nothing of officials who weren't sure, either.

Here are a few examples from such sources as journals and maps. In 1681, a Father Hennepin wrote it Akansa, the same spelling being used on the explorer LaSalle's map of around 1683. The Frenchman, Joutel, one of LaSalle's shipwrecked men who lived to record his experiences, wrote the name as Accanceas. In 1723, Bernard de la Harpe, who explored the Arkansas River, spelled the name as Arkansas although along about the same time others wrote it Arkanseas. Some other spellings of record Akanssa, Acancea, and Aquahpa. Zebulon Pike, American soldier and explorer, who reached the Arkansas River in 1811 near present-day Kansas and Colorado, spelled the name Arkansaw.

From an appearance and spelling standpoint, Pike was much closer to the proper pronunciation than just about anybody else. Eight years later, by act of Congress, the Territory of Arkansaw was created from a part of the original Louisiana Purchase. So far as a lot of us are now concerned, the spelling should have been retained. Now all us good folks claiming citizenship in this state would properly be called Arkansawyers. This arrangement obviously was not destined to be permanent. Controversy over both the spelling and the pronunciation existed from those early times. And along came William E. Woodruff, a young printer from New York, to establish the new territory's first newspaper, which he named the Arkansas Gazette.

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His selection of spelling undoubtedly wielded wide influence, both in the territory and elsewhere. Arkansaw Territory came into the Union in 1836 as Arkansas, but was and still is predominantly pronounced Arkansaw, at least in this part of the world.

Our state has seldom been minus one kind of public hassle or other throughout its history. The Arkansas (as in Kansas) hassle continued on through the Civil War, through Yankee "reconstruction," and into the 1880's. The Arkansas Historical Society and the Eclectic Society then undertook a joint study, which went on for quite a spell. Some notable Arkansas scholars dug into linguistics of the Indians, the French, and others seeking an answer. Their conclusion was that the correct spelling was Arkansas and the pronunciation was Arkansaw. No early writers, nor the Indians themselves, were found to have given the Kansas sound to the name. The state legislature then adopted a resolution approving the findings of the study. If anything makes Arkansaw the official sound, that does it.

In passing, let's note that the state of Kansas and its citizens, the Kansans, didn't come into those names easily or without some solid differences of opinion. "Bleeding Kansas" bled over more than one issue.

Present day students of name origins list as many as 120 ways of spelling Kansas. There's pretty general agreement that the word came from the name given an Indian tribe by the French. That was Kansa. This spelling wasn't consistent, however, and also appeared in early journals as Kaw, among others, and indeed there is a Kaw River. Some other Kansas spellings include Kau-Zau, Kaw Saw, Caugh, and Kausau. And there are Konzas, Kances, Cansez. The question seemingly was settled, at least offically, when the State of Kansas was admitted to the Union in 1861. I'd not be troubled at all if the "Sunflower State" were called by what I consider its true name, Kansaw.

To close today's consideration of the subject, mention must be made of the legendary oration, "Change the Name of Arkansaw", which many believe was actually given in the state legislature in Little Rock. History doesn't agree, I regret to say, although surely the sentiment expressed - despite the colorful and sometimes vulgar wording - was appropriate a century ago. So far as I'm concerned, we Arkansawyers live in the land of Arkansaw, no matter what the spelling might be.

-Baxter Bulletin, June 11, 1981

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OTHER DAYS - FROM ARKANSAS GAZETTE FILES

150 Years ago - January 23, 1831
 LITTLE ROCK - THE EMIGRATING INDIANS

A party of about 400 Emigrating Choctaws, in charge of Col. Childress, arrived at this place, by land, from the Post of Arkansas, on Sunday 1st, now have since been removed to Camp Pyle, and joined Col. Rector's party which have been encamped there for several days, and now consists of about 1500 souls. This party is expected to take up their line of march to the south in a day or two.

The Steamboat Reindeer, Captain Miller, arrived on Sunday evening last, from the mouth of the White River, with a keel-boat in tow, having performed her trip from hence to the Mouth and back in few hours over six days. She brought up about 500 Emigrating Choctaws, to charge of D. John T. Fulton, Special Agent for the removal of Indians, and left on Monday evening for Fort Smith, where the Emigrants will be landed.

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FROM BAXTER BULLETIN FILES

75 Years Ago - May 26, 1905

At the annual school election last Saturday a resolution was adopted instructing the directors to begin immediately the erection of a \$5,000 brick or stone school building. Rudolf Brown has prepared plans and specifications on which bids will be called for and contracts awarded, and ground should be broken for the foundation of the structure within 30 to 40 days. A four-mill tax was voted for the teachers' fund and one mill for building fund.

A statement of finances by the directors showed that \$3,100 was on hand for building purposes. After many plans were proposed and rejected it was finally decided that the businessmen raise \$2,000 by subscription to be loaned without interest to the district until an annual one-mill tax reimburses the subscribers. The work was then and there begun and by 2 p.m. the \$2,000 was in sight. It was more like a jollification meeting than anything else. A large vote was cast and everybody was happy.

Mountain Home has already good school facilities and the reputation of being the best school town in North Arkansas. This move will place her still farther ahead of competitors, and she will continue to be the best educational center in this part of the state.

75 Years Ago - Dec. 9, 1904

The fashions for December 1904 are delightfully different from what they were a year ago. The ladies' gowns are to be chiffony and billowy with an extremely bouffantry effect. We don't know what that means, but that sounds good, says an exchange. The bust to be worn high, blouse effect below shallow yokes, and finished with deep cuffs, will be the style of waists this year. The breastplate of embroidered taffeta should be worn just below the waist bone. The kicking strap should be made of blue crepe de chine, and the throat latch of pastel blue cloth, with fancy braid, shirring, buttons and a touch of velvet for trimmings. Check reins will not be worn.

50 Years - Dec. 12, 1929

The appearance of Connie Franklin at Batesville Saturday night interrupted what would have been one of the most sensational murder trials that ever occurred in the north part of the state. Five men were arrested several weeks ago and charged with the crime. They were indicted by the grand jury and held without bail, and were to have been tried at a special term of the Stone County Circuit Court at Mountain View Dec. 16. They were charged with murdering Connie Franklin in the St. James neighborhood, in Stone County, and burning his body.

The evidence on which the indictment was returned was strong, and as far as the writer can see, the officers did only their duty in acting on it. Undoubtedly some of it was perjured evidence. The five arrested were said to have killed Franklin on the afternoon of March 9. Franklin was walking down the road with Tillie Ruminer, whom he was going to marry, the evidence showed, when the men who were arrested for the crime took him away from her and murdered him.

After his identification Franklin was taken to the telephone by a correspondent for the Arkansas Gazette and was connected with the Gazette. The conversation follows: "Franklin, where have you been hiding yourself? Did you know you had

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caused the Gazette a lot of trouble?" "No, I didn't know anything about this stuff until this morning," Franklin said. "I was working over near Humphrey when a Victrola salesman came to me and asked to talk to me a little. He told me about this supposed killing at Mountain View and said, 'Let's go up there.' 'Well, I says let's go.'"

Franklin said on the night before he left Stone County he had been drinking with the men who were accused of his murder. "There was not any beatings," he said, "and no one was hurt except when I fell off my mule and hurt my head."

Prosecuting Attorney Hugh U. Williamson said there were several details concerning the story which the man who claims he is Franklin told that he would check this week. He said he noticed several discrepancies. "There were only four persons who would say that the man at Mountain View was Franklin," Mr. Williamson said. "The others who said they believed he was Franklin were relatives of the five accused men." He said he certainly would be glad to know that Franklin is alive but that until additional proof is presented both he and Sheriff Johnson will believe that Franklin was murdered, and that the state will proceed with preparations for the trial of the five men now being held.

Dec. 27, 1929

From the Arkansas Gazette -

After deliberating all day, the jury in the noted St. James murder case returned a verdict of acquittal late today for four men. The charge of murder against the fifth man who was indicted separately was dismissed. All morning a group of hardy spectators who had struggled each day since Monday for positions of advantage in the courtroom to see and hear the gradual development of this drama of jurisprudence in the hills, awaited the verdict. Deputy sheriffs wormed their way with armloads of wood, frosted with snow, to the two roaring stoves, while newspaper men and attorneys congregated around the judge's dais. The tension had relaxed and everyone was free to argue his viewpoint.

Connie Franklin was an interested spectator in the courtroom while the three hours of oratorical argument was underway. He heard himself denounced by Hugh Williamson as an impostor and as a man so addicted to the habit of lying that he would not recognize the truth if he came face to face with it on the road. Still attired in his famous blue jumper, with his famous gray cap in his hand, his shaggy dark hair in disarray, he listened while the prosecution outlined his long record of prevarification, with a smile on his long thin face.

Sitting around a warm fire in the office of the Dew Drop Inn at Mountain View Thursday night after the trial Herbert Hester, Herman Greenway and Joe White, three of the men acquitted, told the story of what actually happened to a representative of The Bulletin. Summing it up, Hester said, "We were all awful drunk, but there was no killing, no burning and no fighting."

Why Connie left is merely conjecture. He was enmeshed in the eternal triangle that always bodes trouble for those who get caught in its web. Connie had a wife and three children living and was not divorced. A wedding was in prospect with Tillie. He began to wonder how he was going to explain things, and he couldn't figure out a way to save his soul, so he just walked out on them all.

BAXTER COUNTY HISTORY

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Hazen Bonow - Historian.