

Baxter County History



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

Photo courtesy of Ray Grass

VOL. 9 NO. 4

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JUST FOR FUN!

CONUNDRUMS from the Columbia, Missouri Herald, February 9, 1900

1. Why do you go to bed? Because the bed will not come to you.
2. When is a ship like a book? When it is outward bound.
3. Why is an ocean voyage no terror to physicians? Because they are accustomed to see sickness.
4. Why is a popular novel like autumn? Because its leaves are quickly turned and always read (red).
5. Why should a thirsty man always carry a watch? Because there is a spring inside of it.
6. Who are the most exacting of all landlords? Children, because they never fail to make their father and mother parents.
7. What is it that no one wishes to have, yet when he has it, he would be very sorry to lose? A bald head.
8. What conundrums are always at home? Those that are never found out.
9. What insect does a tall father represent? A daddy long-leg.
10. When a lady faints what figure should you bring her? You should bring her two.
11. Why is a pig in the parlor like a house on fire? Because the sooner it is put out the better.
12. When are C. B. Miller's shoes poor? Never.

OUR STRANGE LANGUAGE from St. Louis Illustrated Home Journal, November 1902

When the English tongue we speak,
 Why is 'break' not rhymed with 'freak'?
 Will you tell me why it's true
 We say 'sew', but likewise 'few';
 And the maker of the verse
 Cannot cap his 'horse' with 'worse?'
 'Beard' sounds not the same as 'heard';
 'Cord' is different from 'word';
 'Cow is cow, but 'low' is low;
 'Shoe' is never rhymed with 'foe';
 Think of 'hose' and 'dose' and 'lose';
 And of 'goose' - and yet of 'choose.'
 Think of 'comb' and 'tomb' and 'bomb';
 'Doll' and 'roll;' and 'home' and 'some.'
 And since 'pay' is rhymed with 'say'.
 Why not 'paid' with 'said' I pray?
 We have 'blood' and 'food' and 'good';
 'Mould' is not pronounced like 'could.'
 Wherefore 'done', but 'gone' and 'lone?'
 Is there any reason known?
 And, in short, it seems to me,
 Sounds and letters disagree.

MAKING ENDS MEET from Carrollton, Missouri Journal, February 28, 1879

It is all very well to talk about economy, but the difficulty is to get anything to economize. The little baby who puts his big toe in his mouth is almost the only person who in these hard times manages to make both ends meet.

LEMON PIE RECIPE from Jefferson City, Missouri Daily Tribune, February 8, 1883

A recipe for lemon pie vaguely adds: "Then sit on a stove and stir constantly." Just as if anybody could sit on a stove without stirring constantly.

A FOOT ON DINNER from Charleston, Missouri Enterprise, August 10, 1876

An awkward man attempting to carve a goose, accidentally dropped it on the floor, "There, now," exclaimed his wife, "we've lost our dinner." "Oh, no, my dear," answered he, "it's safe; I've got my foot on it."

THE BAXTER COUNTY HISTORY

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BAXTER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Mountain Home, Arkansas

Regular Monthly Meetings are held at 7.30 p.m., the first Tuesday of each month,
at the Arkansas Power and Light Building on S. W. 62, Mountain Home.

Active Membership \$ 5.00 per year
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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BEWARE THE BLOB

Science has met the Blob. Princeton biologist David Waddell, the discoverer, has named it *Dictostelium caveatum*. Waddell's blob is a slime mold that lives in a cavern in Arkansas, grazing on bat excrement. The new species is distinguished by its bizarre, body-snatching mode of predation.

Slime molds generally flow along in a shapeless mass that engulfs any living object in its path. The *Dictostelium* mold, a coalition of amoebas, dispatches "attack" amoebas to infiltrate a prey species of amoeba. Once inside, the predators multiply and eat up their hosts; cell by cell, the victims change from prey to predator.

It's as if, being infected by the cell of another person, you were gradually to become him. The life of man may be poor, nasty, brutish and short, but it holds no horror like the Blob of Blanchard Springs Cavern in Arkansas.

- New York Times, quoted in Reader's Digest, March 1983

The minister of a rural church deep in the Ozarks suggested to his parishioners that they purchase a chandelier. It was put to a vote and all the members voted it down.

"Why do you oppose the purchase of a chandelier?" asked the preacher.

"Well," drawled one of his flock, "first we can't spell it, so how can we order it? Second, even if we did get it, no one can play it, and third, what we really need is more light."

PROGRESS OF THE BAXTER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Hazen Bonow, Historian

August 2, 1983

Dr. James Lowe showed slides of Presidential Libraries and homes. These included those of Truman, Eisenhower, Johnson, Hoover, Roosevelt and Jackson.

September 16, 1983

Quinby Smith and Garvin Carroll gave the program on "Tall Tales and Ghost Stories of the Ozarks." Members and guests also participated with their memories of stories or happenings.

Quinby said some of the stories were true, some exaggerated, and some tall tales and ghost stories.

There was a Court Week held at Mountain Home each year and everybody came to town. The Smiths always had house guests at this time. At night the men would sit around telling stories of all kinds. Quinby slept in the adjoining room but kept his door opened and listened. He said the Irish, English and Scotch were settlers in this area and they believed in ghosts and were afraid of them.

Here are some of the stories told:

A hunter took his hunting horn out hunting but it was so cold no sound came from his horn. When he got home the horn thawed out and started blowing. The same hunter had a muzzle loaded gun but ran out of shells. He then saw four or five ducks sitting in a row, so he loaded his ramrod in the gun. He fired it and it went straight through all the ducks' necks!

Watermelon vines grew so fast they wore the watermelons out!

There were watermelons growing on top of a hill near the house so when they wanted a melon they would shoot the vine and the melon would roll down the hill to the house.

There were so many hills that when one man cut down a tree it started rolling down and up the hills and ended being a toothpick!

One man started a boulder rolling down a hill, He yelled, "Don't touch it!" He then went to look at it, and said, "That's right - no moss!"

A farmer had a good corn patch at the creek bottom with a rail fence around it. The corn was ready to eat and an old sow and her pigs went down to investigate. She found a rock under the fence and let her pigs under the fence. She went around and found a grapevine so she grabbed it to swing over the fence to join her pigs and enjoy the corn.

There was a rain and the creek rose so high you could see under it. An old man's mule had to stand on his hind legs to get a drink from it.

A man went to look at a farm he was interested in. He noticed how the trees had marks on them and they kept getting higher. The farmer said that was caused by his hogs rubbing against the trees, and would he like to buy the land? "No, but I'd sure like to look at those hogs," he replied.

There were razorback hogs living under a house and they rubbed against the floor so much the floor fell through.

September 16, 1983, continued

Garvin said there were two or three Government stills near his home. Drunks would wander down the road. One day a man came along carrying his clock to get repaired and a drunk bumped into him. The man said, "Why don't you look where you're going?" The drunk replied, "Why don't you wear a wristwatch like everyone else!"

A local undertaker was telling about an Irish lady whose husband had just died. He asked, "Was he a member of Knights of Columbus?" No. "A Mason?" No. "An Elk?" No. "An Eagle?" No. "A Moose?" No. "How about a Ku Klux Klan? They are devils with a sheet over their heads." Her reply, "That, he was!"

The main road went by the Middle School and the Cemetery. Two boys put on sheets to scare a man passing by. The man fell to the ground so the boys picked him up and carried him to the Casey house. On arriving he stood up and said, "Thank you, boys, for carrying me home!"

On Halloween the first thing the boys would do was turn over the "out houses". Next they would put a cow or a mule in the school house. One time they set a wagon in the Valley Spring school house and stuck the tongue out the door.

A few years ago this happened. There were no street lights then and there was a cut-off through the Cemetery. One grave was open for the next day's burial. During the night a drunk fell in and couldn't climb out so he sat down and went to sleep. Later another drunk came along and fell in. This woke the sleeper and he said, "You can't get out!" but he sure did!

Garvin was staying with his two aunts and an uncle. An elderly man who wasn't "all there" would walk past often. One night one of his aunts dressed up like this odd man and put a sheet over her face. Garvin met her and she scared him so bad he wouldn't go to town any more.

The picture show in Mountain Home was on the second floor and had open windows. One night Garvin and some boys decided to have some fun. There was a house by the quarry with two or three sticks of dynamite. They took the wrappers off the put them around corn cobs, also put long fuses on them. They threw them up through the open windows, scaring everyone, breaking up the show and sending them running into the street.

A city man came to Eureka Springs for a visit. He was shown the bridal suite which had a double and a single bed. "Why the single bed?" he asked. "Well, down here the single bed is for the mother-in-law," he answered. The city fellow replied, "You sure have strange customs here in the Ozarks!"

A man from Texas with an air-conditioned car picked up a farmer walking down the road. He asked the farmer where he wanted to go. He replied, "I was going to town but the weather has turned so cold I'll go back and kill some hogs."

On the slow train through Arkansas a couple boarded it at Fort Smith. The train kept stopping here and there, finally the man wanted to know how soon they'd get to Memphis, as his wife was expecting a baby. The conductor said, "You shouldn't have got on the train with her in that condition!" He replied, "I didn't!"

September 16, 1983, continued

This story is a recent true one. Garvin received a letter from a woman in Texas asking him to research a grave outside Moody Cemetery near Iuka. In the middle 1800's a gentleman wasn't liked in that community. He lived alone and had shot and killed one or two neighbors. He was alone in his field plowing when someone ambushed him. They buried him face down outside the cemetery, facing north and south. Garvin and Quinby located the grave. In the 92 cemeteries in Baxter County, one has two graves north and south, a man and a boy. Another has one such grave. It is said the man in the last grave requested such a burial. The graves of the man and boy are believed to contain colored.

In Missouri there was a fellow married to a nice lady, but a 'street' lady came along and he left and followed her. Five men in the community found him and each put a bullet in him and left him die in the middle of the road. The women thought they should bury him, but none of them would touch him so they dug a shallow grave in the road and rolled him in it.

From the Baxter Bulletin

50 Years Ago - October 20, 1933

Surveys and soundings for the bridge across the Northfork river on Federal highway 62, at Henderson, in this county, have been completed, and are satisfactory. Two bridges have been designed; one a concrete which will be 981 feet long, if it is adopted, and the other steel which will be 800 feet, if it is chosen. Results of the survey, soundings and the two proposed bridge designs have been sent to the Federal Bureau of Good Roads for approval. Judge Ruthven has requested that the concrete type be used for the reason that it will employ more local labor. It is expected that work on the bridge will start within 60 days. The road will be changed at the crossing from its present location. It will cross the river about 33 yards above the present ferry and come out on top of the hill at the Porterfield place. This will cut the distance about one mile.

10 Years Ago - October 18, 1973

By a record vote of 337 to 14, the U. S. House of Representatives last week passed the Water Resources Development Act of 1973, and the River Basin Monetary Authorization Act of 1973, containing provisions for the construction of a bridge across Lake Norfolk. Approximately \$ 14 million is provided for construction of the twin span Lake Norfolk bridge.

A NICE LETTER FROM MRS. NADINE CHAMBLESS of Dallas, Texas says, "I'm hoping to see more Baxter County marriages published soon".

Joseph and Irma Bloom researched and contributed these for many years, but thought they had brought them close enough to the present time. If there is sufficient interest, they might be persuaded to continue.

Mrs. Nadine Chambless is the Red Cross Representative at the Veteran's Hospital (850 beds) in Dallas and has served as a Red Cross volunteer for eleven years. She has promised to contribute more historical items for us.

H. M. K.

HAVE YOU SEEN the U. S. 20c stamp showing a "Bobtail" horsecar at Sulphur Rock, Arkansas, 1926? Sulphur Rock is east of Batesville. It looks as if it might hold 12 passengers, the driver of the one horse standing on the platform.

DESCRIPTION OF PHOTOGRAPHS

- # 1. "Witness Trees" as marked by early surveypr.
From North Arkansas Entertainer of 9/16/83
- # 2 and # 3. "Witness Trees" now in Panther Creek Road area.
Note the 3 horizontal hacks at the base, and the higher X.
(Photos by Howard Knight)
- # 4. Henderson Bridge, five arch concrete deck, built across the Northfork River, completed December 1934 at cost of \$128,000 depression dollars. On February 19, 1944 it disappeared beneath the rising waters of Norfolk Lake and is now 100 feet below the lake surface. (Photographer not known)
- # 5. Artist's drawing of the Norfolk Dam that drowned the Henderson Bridge. The Dam was started in the spring of 1941 and commenced generating commercially in 1944.
(From postcard of The Ramey Co., Mountain Home)
- # 6. Highway 62 Bridge. 13 intermediate supports. Opened to traffic October 19, 1983. (Highway 101 Bridge, 11 supports, opened to traffic October 12, 1983, not shown.)
Official opening of both bridges November 20, 1983.
(Photo by Howard Knight)
- # 7. One of the ferries displaced by the bridges. They had been a great convenience as well as a great inconvenience due to sometimes long waits. Their operation started in 1944, last ferry operation October 21, 1983.
(Photo courtesy of The Baxter Bulletin)

 REMINISCENCES, continued from page 46

"On her return home she looked up and there in a tree fork lay a panther sleeping. You can bet she did not wake it up! She went flying for home with her dog Spitz at her heels. I can remember my grandmother telling that story many times!

"My mother, Ida (Farris) Jung worked for Uncle Jess Copeland. There she met and married my late father, Carl J. Jung.

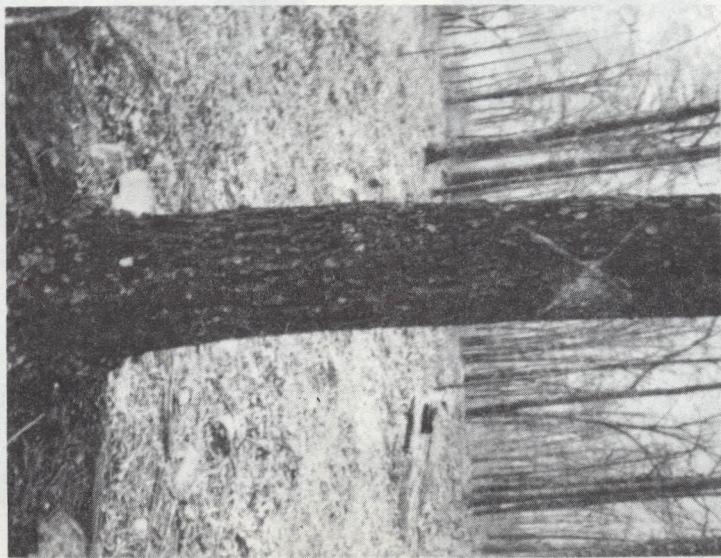
"Uncle Jess founded the Baxter Bulletin and later had a grocery store in Mountain Home."

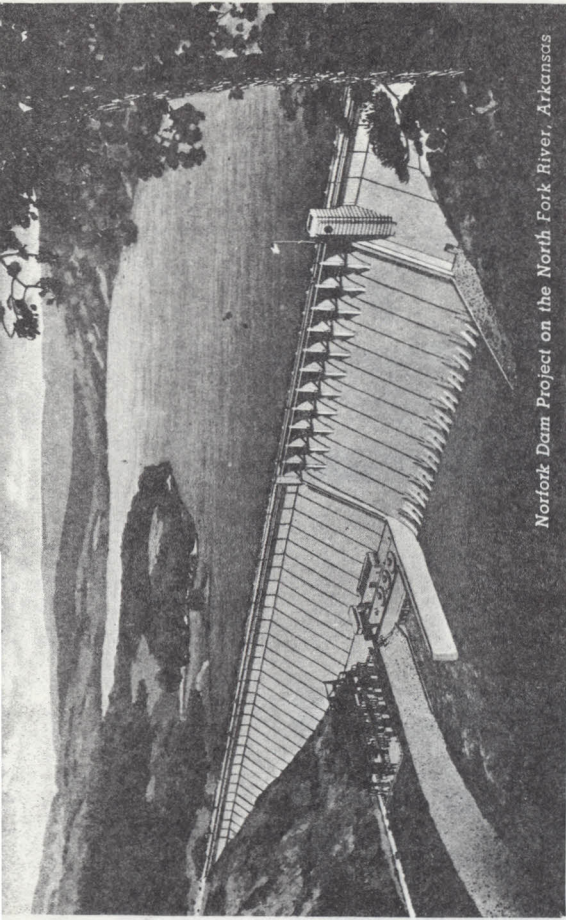
- Mary (Jung) Craig



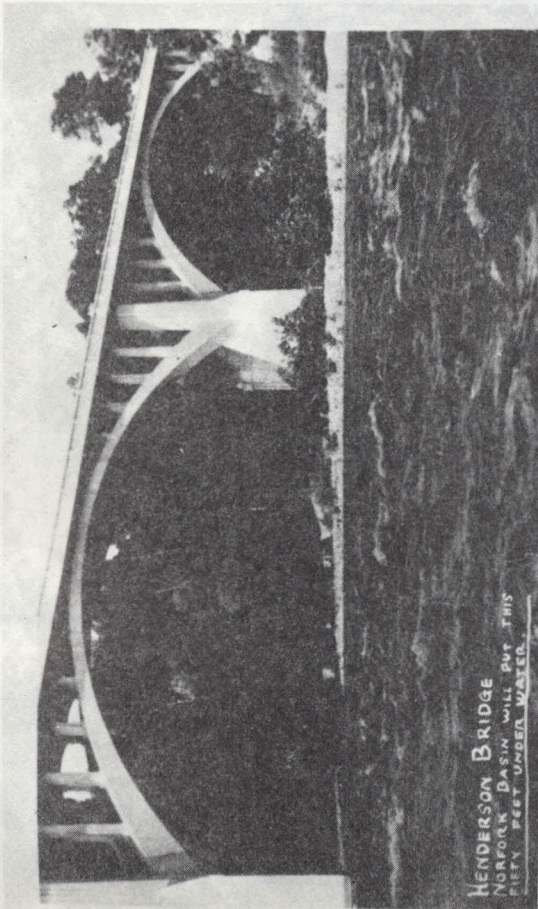
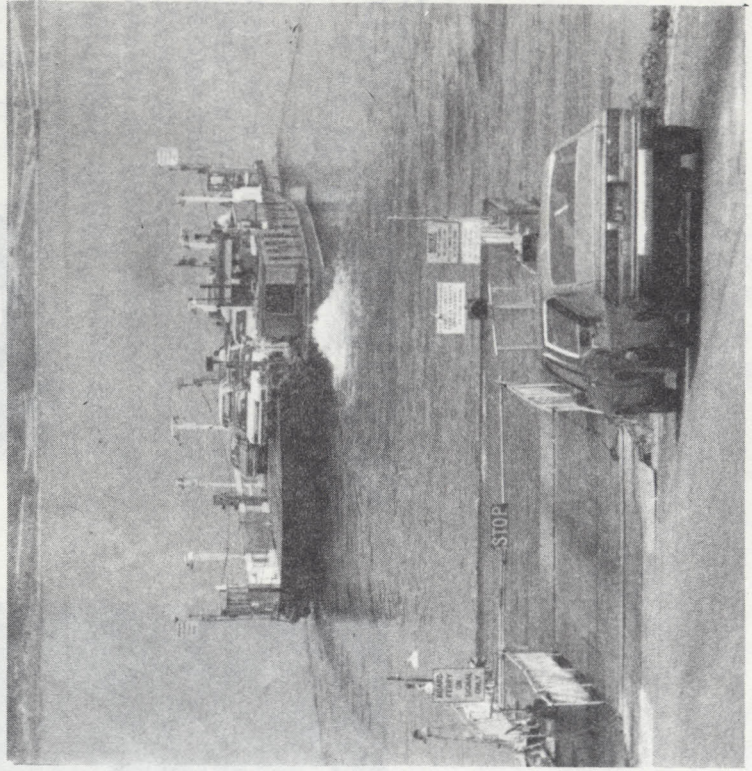
"WITNESS TREES" WERE THOSE MARKED BY EARLY ARKANSAS SURVEY TEAMS TO INDICATE THE LOCATION OF SECTION LINES. WHERE THERE WERE NO TREES, A MOUND OF SOIL WAS OFTEN USED AS A MARKER.

This is
Arkansas
A PUBLIC SERVICE OF THE SURVEYOR GENERAL
AND THE ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF LAND & TOURISM

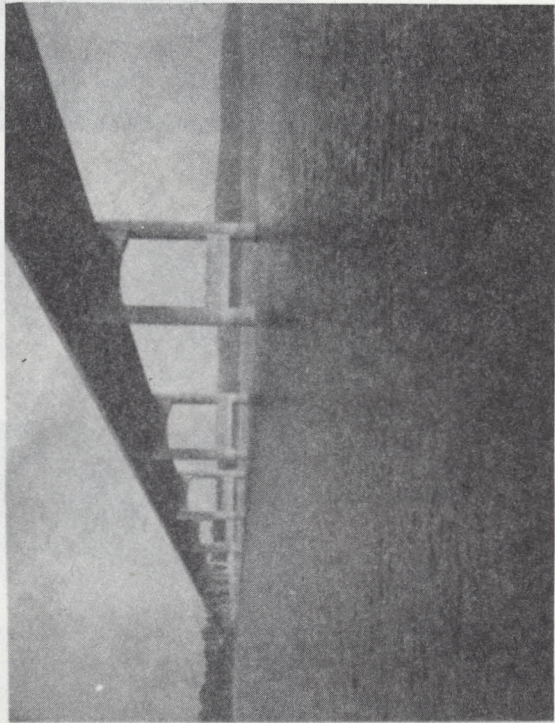




Norfolk Dam Project on the North Fork River, Arkansas



HENDERSON BRIDGE
 NORFOLK BASIN WILL PUT THIS
 FIFTY FEET UNDER WATER.



REMINISCENCES

Alyce Marbury says:

"This is a letter written by Mary (Jung) Craig whose mother was Ida Jung, a little lady who used to live on North Street here in Mountain Home, directly behind the Lutheran Church. Ida was a sturdy, self-sufficient little woman. She took care of herself and didn't want any help or assistance from anyone. She kept a cow and chickens and made a big garden every summer. She made her living by selling milk and chickens. And she delivered the milk herself all over town in a wheel barrow. Her husband had died and her two children moved away when they finished school.

Mary writes:

"My mother, Ida (Farris) Jung was a descendant of the Cranfill family. The Cranfill area got its name from this family. William Cranfill, Ida's grandfather, came to Baxter County in the spring of 1851. He was born and educated in England, coming to the U. S. as a young, single man. He settled in North Carolina where he met his wife, Edith Trivett, and her brothers Lize, Thomas and Jack Trivett.

"William Cranfill, his wife and their two children, Jane and Anderson, came to Arkansas in a one-horse drawn wagon with their meager possessions. They came to what is now Cranfill Landing.

"My mother's mother, Vessie, was born November 2, 1851.

"Edith Cranfill was destined not to experience the Civil War as she died November 10, 1851 and was buried in what later became known as the Judge Cranfill Family plot. The graveyard at that time was on the bank of Pidgeon Creek. This cemetery has since been moved to the cemetery on Highway 201 near the Quality Ridge school house.

"I don't know when my great-grandfather acquired slaves - or how - but there was a slave woman named Lottie who took Vessie and nursed her and took care of her.

"In the meantime, William Cranfill married Clara Willard. Their children were Malissie, Homer, James, Henry, Dawson and Rob..

"It was not long after William Cranfill settled here until Jack, Lize and Thomas Trivett came to what is now known as the Cranfill area.

"During the Civil War salt was hard to come by. My grandmother, Vessie (Cranfill) Farris said she remembered hearing the stories about how they would go to the smoke house where the meat was cured and kept and scrape up the dirt. Then the dirt was boiled in water. After the dirt settled the salty water was carefully poured off and used in cooking.

"It was right after the War ended that a great tragedy occurred to the Cranfills. One night masked men called Ku Klux Klan came. They turned over a feather bed and it landed on top of a young baby (Clara and William's new baby). Clara begged them to give her the baby, but they would not listen and it died. They tortured my great-grandfather, thinking he had money hidden. Anderson was tortured and he finally gave up and told them what he knew. Judge Cranfill escaped and ran bare foot over the hills for help, even though his feet were badly burned. Elvira, a black woman who was living with the Cranfills, had a small boy. Some of the men in the Klan made away with him. Elvira followed them as far as the Norfolk River. It was not known whatever happened to the boy. The next day after the KKK episode Clara sent Vessie to see some of her people.

Continued on page 43

SURVEYING IN ARKANSAS

John Ed Isbell is a Civil Engineering graduate of S. M. U., is now the Baxter County Surveyor, President of the Mountain Home Rotary, and two years ago was elected Surveyor of the Year by his fellow-surveyors. He gave an informal lecture on October 4, 1983 to the Baxter County Historical Society, and the following are excerpts from this lecture.

Surveying must be very old as a profession as there are numerous examples of its use in the past such as in the pyramids, and it is mentioned several times in the Bible. For example, Deut. 19:14 reads, "Do not move your neighbor's property line, established long ago in the Land that the Lord your God is giving you."

Surveying started in Arkansas after the U. S. purchased in 1803, from France, their claim to Louisiana. This is known as the Louisiana Purchase and cost the U. S. 5c an acre.

Spain claimed this area before the French acquired it.

At the end of the War of 1812 the government gave land to the soldiers as they were mustered out. This required that the land be surveyed and it was started in 1815.

Two surveyors, Prospect K. Robin and Joseph C. Brown were sworn in as Deputy Surveyors in Washington, D. C. and directed to make the initial survey. They must have left Washington by stage coach as their tickets were submitted on their expense accounts, but the route is not known. They apparently reached the Ohio River and then traveled by boat until they reached their getting off points on the west side of the Mississippi River.

They must have known considerable about Arkansas - more than we would think possible, as Brown went ashore at the St. Francis River and started surveying due west, while Robin went ashore at the Arkansas River and started surveying the 5th meridian straight north. (A meridian is a great circle on the surface of the earth passing through the poles.)

Brown's line is called the Baseline. When he got to the White River, he realized Robin must be behind him so he retraced his line and met Robin at what is now known as the "Louisiana Purchase Monument." It is also known as the "Initial Point of Louisiana Purchase Survey."

This area is very rugged and swampy. Robin required 14 days to run 56 miles. Even today only one road penetrates the area.

The Daughters of the American Revolution established a monument at the Initial Point and it can be viewed by a raised walkway at the end of State Road # 78.

Later, townships, 6 miles on each of 4 sides would be surveyed from this point. The first to the north would be T1-N, and the one to the south would be T1-S. (Mountain Home is T19-N and Range 13W.)

Robin continued north until he reached the Missouri River and then he quit and went home. Nothing further is known about him.

Brown reached the Arkansas River at Little Rock and he went home. Later his Baseline was extended to the Oklahoma border. The Baseline Road on the south side of Little Rock is part of this line. Later, Brown ran the dividing line between Missouri and Arkansas, and still later, was surveying in New Mexico.

SURVEYING, continued

Brown and Robin set monuments every half mile. They usually used wood posts as their instructions were in 1815 to use "semi-permanent" material. Every half mile they "witnessed" (marked trees) on each side. At quarter sections, they witnessed four trees, one on each section. They removed the bark and carved the location and date into the wood. Forty years' growth would often cover the mark.

Where there were no trees, the monument might be a pile of stones with a stake in the center. These stakes usually rotted fairly quickly.

Starting in 1827 and finishing in 1832, every part of Arkansas was surveyed by "contract surveyors." They were paid so much per mile and from this they had to pay their help and all expenses including the monument. Since they were paid by the mile, they went as fast as they could and errors resulted. But, these initial points are the legal points and cannot be changed. (Even now, if a man sets a legal point and it has been used, nobody can move it.)

It was a rugged time for the surveyors. One had all his horses except one, either run off or killed by Indians. Eventually, conditions became so bad that they had to kill and eat the horse.

The instruments they used were very crude by modern standards. They had a compass that was easily affected by ore deposits or iron objects near by, - and a sighting device. It was important to often take sightings of the pole star to get true north. The sighting device was used on a "Jacob's Staff." The accuracy limit was less than $\frac{1}{4}$ of a degree.

The measuring device was a chain containing 100 links and measuring 66 feet long. 80 chain lengths were equal to one mile.

An example of the errors that can result is found in Baxter County, south of the White River, where the township lines do not match those north of the river. This is due to the surveying north of the river being based on the 5th meridian and that south of the river on Brown's Baseline.

Every section point could be a correction point. The correction could be 150 feet in a section. $\frac{1}{4}$ of a section could be 33 acres or 63 acres. Normal is 40 acres.

Isbell also related that he found an interesting error in a map of the area north of the Little Rock Air port where they have sections # 37 and #38 due to a judge's decision! All townships are supposed to only have 36 sections. This is probably the only place in the U. S. where there are sections numbered 37 and 38!

Isbell showed a sighting device and compass that were made in 1904 and used by Ernest Brown to survey Isbell's father's homestead in Fulton County, Arkansas in 1935. This was similar to that used by early surveyors. The compass was about $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter and was situated between two parallel uprights that had sighting holes. It was designed to be set on a "Jacob's Staff."

The Goforth name is well known among surveyors. T. B. Goforth did extensive surveying from 1858 on, when Marion and Baxter counties were together. In 1911 he worked in Baxter County only. His grandson, J. E. Goforth, was later a county surveyor.

Charles Christenson was county surveyor 1906-14 and made exceptional monuments of limestone. They were 6 to 8 inches square and 24 to 30 inches long. He would set them and then scribe on the sides the numbers of the sections. Four years of his field notes were destroyed when his house burnt down.

+7
SURVEYING, continued

Surveyors after Christenson used an aluminum auto piston with attached connecting rod that was embedded in concrete and contained in a stovepipe or metal tube. Directional lines and locations were inscribed into the top of the piston.

Now, the markers specified by the State are of aluminum and plastic with a magnet in the base and also in the top. They are to be set into the ground 24 inches. It is hoped that the magnets will help to find them if a bulldozer or other device removes the top portion.

There is a fine of \$ 250 to \$ 2500 for destroying a witness tree or monument, but Isbell does not know of a conviction.

Frank O. Smith in 1945 originated marking the witness trees with an X that was cut into the cambium layers. There also were 3 horizontal hacks that were barely into the cambium, at the base of the tree. The reason for these three hacks is not known, but it is a custom that originated in England. These hacks will remain visible after the X has been overgrown.

Isbell said that a witness tree could be seen if one went south on 201 and turned right on the Military Road for about 200 feet and then went north about 100 feet. Another witness tree can be easily seen, about 150 feet north of the intersection of county roads 50 and 396 on the west side of the road. The monument has been temporarily (?) destroyed by a county road grader.

Today, surveyors use an infrared beam that is projected to a reflector which is held by a linesman, and the beam is reflected to the transmitter. The distance to the reflector is given by the time it took the beam to travel. Corrections are made for barometric pressure and temperature. The computed distance has an accuracy of 3/8 of an inch irrespective of the distance up to 1500 feet.

The theodolite used gives an angle accuracy of 20 seconds of a degree, but approximations can be made to 2 seconds. The instruments used by earlier surveyors were only accurate to 900 seconds.

Isbell has two professions, civil engineer and registered land surveyor. The "grandfather" part of the law passed by the Arkansas Legislature in 1967 made him a registered land surveyor. Missouri did not recognize this "grandfather" clause so he had to pass their examination.

When he became county surveyor, he started an index to all survey records for Baxter County and had it put on computer. Now they are in book form that sells for \$ 25 but is worth much more.

In the past, the county surveyor was not salaried but was paid for county survey work and he could also survey for individuals. Even now the office does not require a licensed surveyor!

H. M. Knight, Co-editor

"They have a saying in Arkansas that the little frogs in the swamps pipe in their shrill voices: "Quinine, quinine, quinine!" while the big bullfrog with his deep bass voice chimes in; "Double the dose! Double the dose!"

HISTORY OF JUDGE WILLIAM CRANFILL AND JOHN CLAYTON FARRIS

By Mary K. Craig, 2608 Johnson, Little Rock, Arkansas

Foreword: "I still remember a lot about Baxter County, especially Mountain Home. My mother was Ida Farris Jung and I have many relatives in the county. There are many of the Farris, Cranfills, Trivitts, Duttons, Coxes, Paynes, Cowarts, Marlens and Kuplands living in or near the Baxter County area."

Judge William Cranfill came over from England apparently to a North Carolina port. He was the son of L. and W. Cranfill and met and married Edith Trivitt. In the spring of 1851 they moved to Baxter County bringing with them Anderson and Jane, their two children.

On November 2, 1851 grandma Cranfill gave birth to their third child, Vesse. Vesse was on her way when they settled in Baxter County. She was born in what is now known as the Cranfill area (Cranfield Area Landing).

The early years of William and Edith Cranfill's marriage were hard. When they married they had only the clothes on their backs, a hoe apiece and a few seeds. I remember hearing my grandmother, Vesse Cranfill Farris, telling what a hard time they had in the North Carolina hill country. Further evidence of this is the fact that they had all of their possessions in a one horse drawn wagon in 1851.

Ely (Lize) Trivitt and his brother Josh either came with them or soon followed. The family became engaged in farming, raising live stock and operating a ferry boat on the Northfork River. William, Ely and Josh became very active in the Republican Party in Baxter County. William was also a Justice of the Peace, a Mason and a Baptist. It is my understanding that Judge Cranfill also owned slaves, at least for a time. He died November 10, 1851.

There was a Tom (Thomas) Trivitt, too, and they were among the very earliest settlers of Baxter County. Two of their slaves were Lottie and Wesley. Lottie had a child born November 2, 1851. When Vesse's mother died, Lottie nursed her. Shortly afterwards Judge Cranfill married Clara Willard. The following were their children: Malissie, Homer, James, Henry, Duncan and Robert. Justice Cranfill died August 5, 1895.

John Clayton Farris was born April 1846 and died July 25, 1916.

He first enlisted as a private in the 1st Company B in the 5th Regiment of South Carolina Infantry. This was under Andrew Jackson, in the York District of South Carolina, on April 13, 1861. The enlistment was for twelve months. He reenlisted about three times after this.

On December 10, 1862 he was admitted as sick to the Medical Director's Office in Richmond, Virginia. Later he was transferred to Tallen (?) Chester Hospital, Washington, D. C. May 31, 1862 he was wounded and hospitalized at the Medical Director's Office in Richmond. May 15, 1864 he was wounded in the head and sent to Jackson Hospital in Richmond. At this time he was serving in Bratton's Brigade in the campaigns of 1864, Army of Northern Virginia.

After the Civil War ended, he came to Baxter County and there married Vesse Cranfill (Vesse, Edith, L. Cranfill), on February 4, 1881. They lived in Baxter County until his death July 26, 1916. He was a farmer and a shoe cobbler. They lived from 1896 to '97 on a farm six miles from Mountain Home on the Goodall Holler banks.

CRANFILL-FARRIS HISTORY, continued

They had the following children:

| | <u>Born</u> | <u>Died</u> |
|---------------------------|---------------|------------------------------|
| Nathan | April 7, 1881 | Aug. 31, 1971 |
| Clara Ann | Dec. 20, 1883 | Mar. 12, 1971 Calico Rock |
| William | Apr. 18, 1885 | 1957 |
| James H. | Feb. 5, 1887 | Jan. 18, 1975 |
| Edith Jane Farris | Dec. 28, 1888 | Jan. 20, 1976 |
| Ida Katherine Farris Jung | Apr. 5, 1890 | Aug. 24, 1979 |
| Mary Ella Farris Dutton | Aug. 28, 1893 | Sept. 29, 1939 |

Ida Farris Jung and her son Louis and daughter, Mary K., were long-time residents of Baxter County. In fact, Ida was born in the Cranfill area same as her mother, Vesse Cranfill. She moved from there with her family shortly after she started to school. They moved onto Goodall Holler.

Jim (James) Farris in 1917 or 1918 went into World War I and was injured in defense of his country. He lost a lung from that injury.

LOOKING BACK

January 15, 1864

"Nothing new from the armies - all quiet. My occupation at home just now is as new as that in the office (Commissary Department) it is shoe making. I am busy upon the second pair of gaiter boots. They are made of canvas, presented to me by a friend. It was taken from one of our James River vessels, and has often been spread in the breeze, under the "Stars and Bars." The vessel was sunk among the obstructions at Drury's Bluff. The gaiters are cut out by a shoemaker, stitched and bound by th ladies, then sold by a shoemaker, for the moderate sum of \$ 50. Last year he put sales on for \$10. They were then blacked with the material used for blacking guns in the Navy. They are very handsome gaiters, and bear polishing by blacking and the shoebrush as well as Morocco. They are lasting, and very cheap when compared with those we buy, which are from \$ 125 to \$ 150 per pair. We are certainly becoming very independent of foreign aid. The girls make beautifully fitting gloves of dark flannel cloth, linen, and any other material we can command. We make very nice blacking, and a friend has just sent me a bottle of brilliant black in, made of elderberries."

- Judith Brockenbrough McGuire in "Ladies of Richmond", Jones 1962

"Mrs. Lee (the General's wife) spent most of her time in making gloves and socks for the soldiers. She gave me at one time several pair of Gen. Lee's old socks, so darned that we saw they had been well worn by our hero. We kept these to apply to the feet of those laggard "old soldiers" who were suspected of preferring the "luxury" of hospital life to the activity of the field. And such was the application of those warlike socks that even a threat of it had the effect of sending a man to his regiment who had been lingering months in inactivity. If a poor wretch was out of his bed over a week, he would be threatened with "Gen. Lee's socks!"

- Emily Mason in "Ladies of Richmond", Jones 1962

SPEAKING ARKANSAW

Arkansaw with a w has come to be regarded as an illiteracy, or worse, as a joke by a few humorists. But there is some reason for the use of the w and for calling the people of our state Arkansawyers.

This state's name came from attempts by early French explorers to write down the name of the Indian tribe they met on the lower end of what came to be called the Arkansas River. There was no word in French for what the Indians called themselves so the explorers did their best to write the words phonetically. They came up with a large variety of spellings which evolved into two words - one for the Indians (Quapaw) and one for their land (Arkansa or Arkansas). After the Louisiana Purchase in 1803 and the Americanization of the area, the matter became more complicated by the various spellings used by the new settlers. The official congressional act of 1819 designated this land as a territory of the United States using the spelling Arkansaw.

Everyone should have been satisfied with that, but William Woodruff, who came to the territory that year and began publishing the Arkansas Gazette. It was the only newspaper in the territory and as such was very influential in determining what form the printed word would take. He was a passionate advocate of spelling Arkansas with a final s instead of a w. Mainly because of his efforts, Arkansas was spelled Arkansas when the territory became a state in 1836. That settled that, although Albert Pike, our leading literary man, continued to use both spellings interchangeably until the Civil War. He sometimes used both spellings in the same poem.

But what to call the people - Arkansans, Arkansians, Arkansawyers, Arkies . . .? The confusion resulted from uncertainty over the proper pronunciation of the name of the state. The settlement in the 1830's of Kansas (named for Kansa Indians) contributed to the confusion. If Arkansas were to be pronounced ar-KAN-sas, then it was natural to assume that its inhabitants would be called Ar-KAN-sans. If it was to be pronounced AR-kan-saw, then it was logical to call them Arkansawyers.

Although a decree by the state legislature in 1881 affirmed AR-kan-saw, and several prominent writers and folklorists have insisted on using it, custom and perhaps fashion, has it that we have become Arkansans rather than Arkansawyers, perhaps because some people thought of "sawyers" as workers with their hands or as hillbillies.

Whatever name is used there will still be differences of opinion over it. These days we often note that both words are used in print and in speech.

-Adapted from the Arkansas Times, June 1983
by Helen Tanger

DO YOU KNOW?

What do the following woman titles mean?

- Spinster - a woman whose occupation is to spin
- Webster - a female weaver
- Shepster ?
- Litster ?
- Brewster - a cutter of cloth
- Baxter - a baker of bread