

Baxter County History



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

Photo courtesy of Ray Grass

VOL. 2 NO. 1
1976

Published by
**THE BAXTER COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.**

1.

T H E B A X T E R C O U N T Y H I S T O R Y

Published Quarterly by the
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 Bldg., on S. W. 62, Mountain Home, Arkansas.

Active Membership, \$5.00 per year
Associate Membership, \$2.50 per year

PRESIDENT

Quinby Smith, Rt. 2, Mountain Home, Arkansas 72653

VICE PRESIDENT

Mrs. Guy King, Box 66, Mountain Home, Arkansas 72653

SECRETARY

Nancy A. Flake, 432 Glenstone Dr., Mountain Home, Ark. 72653

TREASURER

D. Garvin Carroll, Box 309, Mountain Home, Ark. 72653

CO-EDITORS

Mr. & Mrs. Howard Knight, Rt. 4, Emerald Bay Rd.,
Mountain Home, Ark. 72653

HISTORIAN

Hazen E. Bonow, Rt. 4, Panther Bay Rd., Mountain Home, Ar.

Correspondence concerning membership dues, membership, orders for the "History", and other business matters should be sent to the Treasurer. Available back issues are \$1.00 each.

Contributions of material for the "History" should be sent to the editors.

Neither the Society nor 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.

I N D E X

- Page 1. List of Officers
- Page 2. Index, Photo Credits, Annual Mtg., Census in Library.
- Page 3. Progress of Baxter County Historical Society, New Members, Errata.
- Page 4. Decoration Day.
- Page 5. Decoration Day, Publishing Costs, Memorials,
- Page 6. R. I. P.
- Page 7. Beebro. Gambling with Cotton.
- Page 8. First Historical Dig - Mooneys' Landing.
- Page 9.- 13. The Land Man - M. E. Curlee
- Page 14. Tallest Man, Burning of Courthouse 1890, Sheriff Mooney
- Page 15. Sheriff Mooney's Accidental Death
- Page 16. From "Early Days & War Times". - Baxter County History.

PHOTOGRAPH CREDITS

The photo of Mack and Mabel Curlee is by W. R. Bell. The photo of Robert Wadell was furnished by Mrs. Alyce Marbury. She also furnished the post card of the Curlee Hotel. Lloyd Fisk supplied the photos of "Uncle" Pressley, Cliff Maynard, and making a road at Goodall Hollow.

* * * * *

1977 ARKANSAS HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

The 1977 meeting will be held at BATESVILLE making it very easy for ALL OF US to attend. The Smiths and Knights found the 1976 meeting at Helena to be very worthwhile and we earnestly urge all members and their friends to attend this meeting.

It gives one a chance to meet very interesting people, see what other Historical Societies are doing and get a lot of interesting ideas.

* * * * *

JAMES LOGAN MORGANS' DONATION TO BAXTER COUNTY LIBRARY

Mr. Morgan, editor of "The Stream of History", Jackson County Historical Society, has donated the following to the Mountain Home Library on 7th St.:

Izard County, Ark., Seventh Cencus, Free Population Schedule, 1850, transcribed by Ardith G. Foster and James Logan Morgan. (Newport 1971).

Fulton County, Arkansas, Seventh Census, Free Population Schedule, 1850, transcribed by James Logan Morgan. (Newport, 1971).

If anyone needs a copy for research purposes, they can be obtained from Mr. Morgan. Izard County, \$4.00 per copy, Fulton County \$3.00 per copy. Mr. Morgan says his Baxter County ancestors are: Tillmon and Elizabeth (Nance) Thrasher, Thomas Jefferson and Julia (Thrasher) Pinkston, and Joseph Henderson and Amanda Frances (Pinkston) Landrum.

* * * * *

PROGRESS OF BAXTER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Hazen Bonow - Historian

Our programs have continued to be both informative and entertaining. All have helped give us knowledge of the past.

FEBRUARY: Dr. John Buentner talked on the changing times in medicine and nursing practices in this locality. His 40 years of Medical practice saw Mountain Home change from a small community when house calls were made at all hours, under all conditions, to our modern town with clinics, specialists and a hospital and nursing home. He added amusing comments and stories making the program both entertaining and enlightening.

MARCH: Ray Grass spoke on the "Progress of Recordings". He illustrated his talk with a tape of the first records up to our now modern type. It was an excellent program enjoyed by all. Rose Mary Bodenhamer displayed and played a beautiful old music box belonging to her Grandmother. Howard Knight also had several old phonographs from his collection on display.

APRIL: Gordon Lambrecht gave a program with a film showing the early planes and the first mail delivery and their development up to the DC7. The last segment of the film was taken from a plane doing stunts showing the earth at all angles. Gordon also displayed pictures and models of old planes.

For our Bicentennial celebration, the club is sponsoring an Antique Show at the Armory May 15-16, 1976.

* * * * *

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

| | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| Jim F. McClure | Mr. & Mrs. Lyle V. Gilman |
| Roy Hendrix | Bob Smith |
| Mrs. Irma Baker | Park Anderson |
| Frank Huckaba | Pete Shiras |
| Kenneth Trammell | Barbara Wells |
| Mrs. Dorothy Mietchen | |

* * * * *

ERRATA - Co-Editor Howard Knight apologizes for mis-titling the church at Monkey Run as Pilgrim's Progress when he and everyone else knows it is PILGRIMS' REST!

Did you notice that in processing the photographs of both the Christian and Presbyterian-Methodist churches that they were reversed? This offset printing is complicated and it is easy to make this mistake. We are sorry.

* * * * *

DECORATION DAY
by
D. Garvin Carroll *

Many interesting events take place each year here in our Arkansas Ozarks. One traditional event is Memorial Day or as I have known it, Decoration Day. An event which takes place at or near a cemetery.

History tells us that a Federal General by the name of John A. Logan, is credited with naming May 30th as Memorial Day.

No one knows exactly when or where this day was first observed. According to tradition, Memorial Day originated during the Civil War when some southern women chose May 30th to decorate soldiers graves. The women honored the dead of both the Union and the Confederate army.

I recall as a very young lad, going with my grand parents to a cemetery that was located in an area of Marion County, Arkansas known as the "Ham Flat" church and cemetery. People would gather early in the day, remain until very late in the afternoon, traveling by wagon and team, because there were very few cars at that period and especially in that area.

The food was prepared at the homes of the participants; and placed in old fashion trunks, transported in the wagon which had as a cushion hay taken from the family hay barn. Grand pa and Grandma rode in the spring seat up front, and the children and grandchildren rode (and sometimes walked) on quilts and hay.

Early on the morning of arrival, the men and boys cleaned the cemetery and when completed, the ladies decorated the family graves of loved ones.

Many special programs took place after the work was completed: usually a flag raising ceremony, singing and preaching, and then the food at lunch time. Special tables were made out of lumber and logs. I recall when the table was SPREAD! The older children cut small limbs from nearby wild cherry trees and kept flies from the food.

The afternoon was a continuation of the morning singing and preaching. When the sun began to set, we would climb back into the wagon for the long ride home.

I recall an incident at one of our later Decorations, when we stayed until after dark. Most of the younger set had been placed in wagons asleep. When the families arrive home it was noted that some mischievous boys had switched some of the sleeping children. Imagine having to make the exchange after dark, by horse, in those days as far away as 10 miles!

* Decoration Day could very well be called Genealogists' Day. Because of this event many records of the past, such as dates, names and places were preserved that would have been lost forever.

No one in all of Arkansas is better qualified to give the story of Memorial Day than Dewayne Garvin Carroll. He was born at Valley Springs, Arkansas, raised on a farm his great grandfather homesteaded in 1848, and is a genealogist specializing in records of grave yards in Baxter County. This gives the background for this very interesting article.

Joseph W. Bloom

* * * * *

PUBLISHING COSTS

At the Arkansas Historical Association annual meeting at Helena, Ark., April 22-24 (which the Quinby Smiths' and Howard Knights' attended) there were many cries of anguish about the increasing cost of publishing their bulletins, quarterlies, annuals, and special reports. Most county societies use offset printing and their costs for quarterlies run from over \$500. to over \$1100.! Even with large (about 600) memberships they are having financial troubles. And the cost of paper and printing is still rising rapidly.

We will barely break even ourselves, using the mimeograph and one sheet of offset for photos - and with all labor gratis. We need more members for better support!

* * * * *

MEMORIALS

Many other county Historical Quarterlies regularly publish Memorials paid for by members or friends. The money is used to help pay for publishing and postage. Would you wish to do this?

* * * * *

COMING BIG CENTENNIAL EVENTS

ALL MEMBERS AND THEIR FRIENDS should participate in the planned Bi-Centennial events such as the WOLF HOUSE reopening at Norfolk, restoration of the CASEY HOUSE at Mountain Home, the ANTIQUE SHOW at the Armory at Mountain Home, and the JULY 4th HOMECOMING PICNIC and CELEBRATION at the FAIR GROUNDS AT MOUNTAIN HOME!

* * * * *

R. I. P.

Fourth in a series of articles on Cemeteries in Baxter County,
Arkansas by D. Garvin Carroll

GASSVILLE CEMETERY is located just across the street North of
the First Baptist Church property in Downtown Gassville, Ark.

Space does not allow us to place at one writing all the names
of the grave markers in the cemeteries we mention from time to
time. I stand corrected also if by chance there should be a
mistake in the spelling of a name or the incorrect listing of a
date copied from the marker.

Following are some of the early 1800 markers there:

| NAME | BORN | DIED |
|---------------------|---------|------|
| D. S. Allman | 1873 | 1941 |
| M. T. Allman | 1852 | 1927 |
| G. W. Anglin | 1850 | 1916 |
| Ollie Anglin | 1850 | 1916 |
| Y. H. Barton | no date | 1918 |
| John C. Blansit | 1860 | 1911 |
| Henry C. Browning | 1863 | 1936 |
| G. V. Carmer | 1853 | 1932 |
| Eliza Coffee | 1844 | 1925 |
| Jessee Coffee | 1895 | 1954 |
| Mort Cook | 1868 | 1922 |
| Joe B. Crane | 1851 | 1925 |
| Dialpha Crane | 1856 | 1932 |
| Dr. B. F. Denton | 1849 | 1929 |
| C. Centon | 1844 | 1880 |
| Rebecca Denton | 1823 | 1869 |
| Robert F. Denton | 1863 | 1935 |
| Rev. Wm. Denton | 1822 | 1895 |
| Wm. J. Denton | 1859 | 1859 |
| Willie Denton | 1883 | 1895 |
| Carl V. Doshier | 1860 | 1953 |
| Matilda Doshier | 1869 | 1956 |
| M. J. Due | 1849 | 1907 |
| Sarah F. Edens | 1862 | 1938 |
| Wm. C. Edens | 1860 | 1942 |
| James Evin Fisk | 1891 | 1955 |
| James Gilliland | 1851 | 1927 |
| Sallie T. Gilliland | 1887 | 1942 |

* * * * *

MARRIAGE RECORDS - The record of Baxter County Marriages will
be resumed in the next issue as Joseph Bloom, because of severe
illness, has not been able to prepare it for this issue.

* * * * *

B E E B R O

by

Irma Baker and Sarah Hurst

Sweat glistened on the black bodies of the Negroes as they heaved the 500-pound bales of cotton onto the steamboat. They chanted in rhythm to their motions:-

"Beebro, Beebro,
Carryin' Beebro down the river,
Beebro on that riverboat go.
Beebro, Beebro..."

Jay Baker, father of Hugh Baker, and Jay's brother, Asa, were cotton buyers in this area in the late 1800s. "B. Bro." was stamped on the cotton bales and the loading crews never understood that this was not the men's name but an abbreviation for Baker Brothers.

Their store was located on the northwest corner of the square, the building now occupied by Mountain Home Hardware. Farmers took their ginned and baled cotton to the store then Jay and Asa had it hauled by wagon to Morfork. There it was loaded onto steamboats and taken down White River to be sold.

Jay and Asa were industrious young fellows. Once their mother gave them each, and their brother John T., a \$20. gold piece. The brothers took their money to Batesville where they bought a wagon-load of salt. They used the money from the sale of the salt to buy merchandise to open the Baker Brothers General Store at Big Flat. In 1884 they moved to Mountain Home.

The Bakers were prosperous, respected businessmen who always remembered to take sacks of peppermint candy to the crews at the dock. The response, "Thank you, Mr. Beebro", never failed to elicit amused smiles.

* * * * *

GAMBLING WITH COTTON

Joe Curlees' unfortunate gamble with the cotton market reminds us of "Uncle Dave Pressleys' like venture. Lloyd Fisk relates that "Uncle Dave was in the northern part of town. In the photo he is standing where the Chamber of Commerce office is now located. He had a service station in the north part of town. He also had a big yellow house. He bought cotton and wanted to make a profit. The stock market went down and he said he would hold it until it went back up. But it kept going down and the cotton rotted, and it was a total loss".

* * * * *

This issues' interview with Mack Curlee shows the interesting events that have occurred and can only be known when those who experienced them are questioned. Please, before it is too late, get these experiences down on paper or tape and let us have them so others now and in the future can know of them too!

FIRST HISTORICAL DIG - "MOONEYS' LANDING"
by Hazen Bonow - Historian

Saturday, APRIL 11th was a perfect day for the dig. The sky was overcast and the temperature moderate. The location was about 10 miles North of Cotter on Rainbow Drive at a new development called "Valley Fly-In" on the White River, with the background of a bluff, a beautiful spot.

While digging a trench for the electrical cable at "Valley Fly-In" a hand-made brick was unearthed and there seemed to be a stone wall. Also a Brass button and some old nails were found. Arthur Cleveland, the developer, and his son Don, recognized the importance of the find and received permission from the owner of this plot for a dig to explore for evidence of the location of the old trading post established by Jacob Mooney about 1810.

What was first thought to be a stone foundation wall was a circular stone construction like a well that had been filled in. It seemed close to the White River to be a well but it could have been used for water in the summer when the river became warm and low and for a cooler to refrigerate perishable foods.

In digging near the well, pieces of broken china, pottery shards, glass, a little metal, old nails, a piece of pipe stem, burned daub, a few animal bones, teeth and charcoal were found. This was evidently a garbage pit. Also found was a very small shell button probably from a child's garment. There were 4 to 6 varieties of china with beautiful patterns and the estimated date was about 1820-1830. There were 4 to 5 types of crockery but dates of these could not be verified as they were typical of many years. The pipe stem was from a clay pipe, a trade item, made in one piece and used in that era. On the back of the brass button was "Best Strong Stand. (standard)". Best Strong was in Old English Script.

Although no wall was unearthed there was enough evidence to verify this was the correct location of the "Mooney Landing." Besides, there was an old roadway still visible which evidently led to the landing.

Mary Ann Messick was at the dig and had a great deal of information as she is a descendant of the Mooneys. It seems Jesse Mooney followed his father to this location about 1840 and established a large cotton plantation, gin warehouse, store, saloon, ferry and steamboat berth.

Louise Fleming was also there and wrote an excellent report for the Baxter Bulletin. Arthur Cleveland of "Valley Fly-In" was a great help and he informed the group that a small corner of the Valley was to be deeded to the Baxter County Historical Society for a Historical Marker.

Thanks to several men in the group who really WORKED HARD. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the day and left with a feeling of accomplishment.

* * * * *

M. E. CURLEE - "THE LAND MAN"

Ed. - (The following was the result of a recent conversation with M. E. Curlee, his wife Mabel, and daughter Alyce Marbury).

M. E. Curlees' (Macks') grandfather was John Curlee, and he lived in Greenville, Illinois. After his first wife died, he married a Mrs. Henry. His family consisted of a stepson, Sylvester, Joe, Dan, Scott, Lucy and Hattie. Mack believes his grandfather came from Mississippi as John would visit relatives in St. Louis who had come from Mississippi.

Joe, or Uncle Joe as he was affectionately called by everyone in later years, Macks' father, suffered greatly from the chills, (malaria), and decided in 1876 to go to Arkansas to visit old friends, the Whit Reddick family. He was accompanied by his step brother Sylvester. The Reddicks lived on a large farm where Cotter Heights is now.

Joe found relief from his Malaria at Gassville even though there was lots of malaria in this area at that time. He thought this was the most beautiful country he had ever seen. He taught school at Rea Valley, in Marion County.

He had met an Alice Smith in Elmpoint, Illinois before he left and thought she was the most beautiful girl in the world. The romance was kept up by correspondence and he returned in 1880 to marry her and brought her back to Arkansas. The nearest railroad station was Rolla, Missouri. They took a buckboard from there to Gassville. They brought with them the first range stove known in this county.

He went to work for Cox and Denton in their big general store at Gassville. Later, he and John Twig became partners and opened a store. Later he bought out Twig and had the store to himself.

Joe went broke in the 1890's. Everyone raised cotton and Joe bought most of it at 8 and 10 cents a pound, and then would ship it by boat or barge to lower river markets and sell it at a profit. Remember at that time there were no telephones or railroads and the arrival of the steamboats and barges depended on the depth of water in the river or a certain stage. During Clevelands' administration, the bottom "fell out" of the cotton market and Joe had all this cotton on his hands. He had to sell out at 50 cents on the dollar of what it cost him and that broke him.

He came in 1900 to Mountain Home and worked in Dr. Wills' and Dr. Jim Lindsays' drugstore. It was located where the Anglers Cafe is now. Joe and Alice had 10 children. One died in infancy. Mack was the sixth. Their names were: Beulah, Birdie, Amy, Frank, Jess, Mack, Paul, Berniece, J. Fred and J. Leo.

M. E. CURLEE - cont.

Shortly after Joe returned to Arkansas with Alice, his parents also came. His father John bought a homestead claim two miles north of Mountain Home and later bought more land to go with it. Johns' daughter Lucy married John P. Clendenin and Hattie married Dr. J. J. Morrow.

Mack Curlee was born July 27, 1890, and was educated in the Mountain Home school. He worked in Dr. Tipton's drugstore for \$30. a month and studied pharmacy under Dr. Tipton but never took a pharmacy examination.

Later, a state law was passed that all pharmacists had to be licensed after passing an examination, but those who had been practising pharmacy for some time, and especially during the last 30 days would be licensed without taking an exam. They divided the state into five districts and formed a pharmacy board. Mack was made a director for this district. One of his jobs was to get everyone in his district who was a pharmacist to Little Rock. They were given licenses without taking the exams.

He trained Paul Morgan, a well known pharmacist, and Paul had to take the exam and passed.

In those days no prescriptions were needed to dispense morphine, laudanum and other such drugs.

Once, Roy Bodenhammer, cashier at the Farmers and Merchants Bank, just had to have a tooth pulled as it was "killing him". There were no dentists in the town so they took Roy to Dr. Tipton's office where he had a sort of barbers' chair and had him lay his head way back. Ross Bucher held his head down, and Mack, who had never pulled a tooth, pulled the tooth. It was next to where several other teeth had been extracted and when Mack pulled the tooth the skin over the other extractions came with it! Roy was sick for quite a while! The tooth had a hollow in it and in this hollow was a tomato seed.

There were some good hearted doctors in those days. Dr. Bob Wilson was the best hearted man that ever lived, and he died poor. Alyce Marbury remembers he gave her pennies for taking her medicine. He did not take money unless it was just pushed on him.

One instance remembered was when a child of Tom Morris was ill. They were so poor that they did not have covers to keep the child warm so Dr. Wilson, without letting his wife know, took one of her quilts and put on the child. The Wilsons had barely enough to keep themselves warm. Mrs. Wilson had to run a hotel to make a living.

Mack tried for the assessors job in 1916. His opponent was J. H. Wolf who is believed to be a grandson of Major Wolf. Mack says Mr. Wolf was an old man at that time and lived in the old Wolf House.

M. E. CURLEE - cont.

There were no phones here then though there might have been one to Cotter. Also, there were no autos to speak of. Big Flat was 35 miles from here and it took about a week to get the election returns from there. Mack was "pretty excited" and did not know what to do while waiting for the returns. He remembers that Dr. Tipton told him - "Either we're going to have to hear from that election or you're going to have to get another job since you're no good the way you are!" He won by 19 votes. He served two terms.

"I'll tell you a thing that people now will hardly believe. When I made my first assessment, the first place I went was to Big Flat which is about 30 or 35 miles from here. I rode a horse and I left about 9 o'clock in the morning. I had these "meal" sacks (a meal sack was a long sack and could be split in the middle on one side - then a book could be slipped into each end and thrown across the back of the saddle) and I had them fixed up and I laid my assessment books across the back of my saddle. We could not use saddle bags as the books would not fit in them. It took me way into the night to get to Big Flat. I went through the Ozark National Forest - there were only a very few families living in the forest, no lights and the darkest kind of night! You could hear everything and I heard it! When I finally got to Big Flat I promised never to do that again but next time would start before day! I forded the river on my horse.

"There were only trails then but you could get through with a wagon. Big Flat was so far away from anything that the store had to be pretty good business - and people had to buy there as they could not get out to go any place else very easily. Some folks there kept a hotel and every time I was there they had country ham and plenty of things they had raised on the table. I stayed there for \$1.00 a day, board and room.

"I want to tell you but guess this ought not to go on the record, when I left Big Flat I was going to Culp. I left along late in the afternoon and night overcame me again. And there was the awfulest storm you ever saw - lightning, thunder, wind and lots of rain. I stopped at a place - I'll never forget the man's name but we'll leave that out. It was maybe 8 or 9 o'clock. Of course they had already had their supper. I had to have feed for my horse and there was none in the barn, but there were oats in the field ready for harvest. He handed me a scythe and told me to cut what I wanted for the horse. I came back in and they had something for me to eat. They had fat meat in a bowl of grease and it was the worst tasting stuff I ever tasted in my life! I did not eat much of it! I finally went to bed where I was harassed by fleas, bedbugs and everything else! The next morning I got up early and got my horse and rode to Culp and assessed the taxes and stayed there all day. I'll tell you what I had for breakfast and it was good! A can of sardines at the store! We used to eat a can of tomatoes, or peaches, or something like that at these country stores as there were no cafes in the country.

"We would put a notice in the paper that I would be at a certain place at a certain time like the present assessor does. I guess

M. E. CURLEE - cont.

it took from 30 to 35 days to make my rounds. When I got home Mother (Mabel Curlee) would enter the Personal assessments in the book. She was the bookkeeper.

"Taxes of course were lower then. They had poll tax, personal property tax and real estate taxes. Good land (bottom land) was assessed about the same as hill land before I took office. That was because the other assessors could not figure what to do about it. When I made my first assessment, I made the policy of assessing every acre. We assessed the personal property every year and every other year we assessed the real estate. I had everyone bring in their deeds and a plat of their land if they had it. The hill land we assessed at \$1.25 an acre and the bottom land at \$100. an acre. This, of course, was reduced 50% so the bottom land was taxed at \$50. an acre. We got it in pretty good shape but I do not know if it is still that way or not.

"I got 20 cents a list for personal property and \$150. every other year assessing the real estate. For personal property assessment you would come in and I would ask you how many horses, cows, hogs you had and what your household goods were worth. In those days we also assessed your money, notes and accounts. It looks as tho this will be the rule again in the future. I got 20 cents for each personal assessment I made. The first year, I think, paid me about \$450. The next year I had to assess the real estate and I got an extra \$150. for that. That was on top of the \$450. making a total for that year about \$600. That was pretty good money for those days. I just about bought that drug store with it. I had no other money. Brother E. N. George, a Church of Christ minister, went on my note. (That was Joe Georges father)."

The Baxter Bulletin recalls that in their April 9, 1926 issue they stated: "Floyd Baker has purchased an interest in the Wilks & Curlee Real Estate business here. Mr. Baker bought Mr. Curlee's interest in the business. Mr. Curlee will devote his time entirely from now on to the office of county and probate judge. The new firm will continue to maintain their offices in the McClure Building on the west side of the Court Square over the Tipton Drug store." Nowadays, probate matters are handled by the chancery judge - not the county judge.

Mack says, "Not much to the County Judge job at that time. To build roads we just had mules and scrapers. I bought a horse-drawn grader. We did pretty good with them. We used a scoop scrapper with handles on it, drawn by mules, for making the ditches at the side. Every township had a road supervisor or overseer and the county judge was over them. Everyone between 21 and 45 years old had to work 4 days each year. They could work 2 days at one time and 2 days later. The supervisor's job was to see that every one worked. You could pay \$2. for 2 days or \$4. for 4 days instead of working.

M. E. CURLEE - cont.

"I bought a Caterpillar tractor for the county so we could get more work done. My successor Judge Hudson stopped the road work and sold the tractor as soon as he got in. Judge Ruthven who succeeded Hudson really bought road equipment and built a lot of roads and bridges.

"I only served one year as County Judge as father broke his hip. We had the drug store and the office of county judge only paid \$600. a year so I had to quit and help. Dad and I went out of the drug store in 1932 or 1933 during the Depression, and I went into the Real Estate business full time."

One of his jobs as County Judge was to perform marriages and Alyce Marbury and her sister Dolores were witnesses to several. Mack said he always tied the wedding "knots" good. He never knew of any that failed.

* * * * *

CURLEE - additional information.

John Curlee was born in 1821 and died Aug. 8, 1899. He married Eliza Jane Henry Feb. 26, 1874. They were buried in Bond County, Illinois.

Joseph (Joe) Nathan Curlee was born Dec. 14, 1851 and died Jan. 9, 1935. His wife Alice Smith Curlee was born March 8, 1859 and died Aug. 15, 1931. Both are buried at Gassville, Ark. Their 10 children in order of birth were: Beulah, Birdie, Amy Belle, Frank, Jesse, Mack, Paul, Berniece, J. Fred, and J. Leo.

Macks' initials M. E. stand for Mack Emery. All of Macks' brothers left Arkansas when they were young men and established themselves in their own businesses. The sisters left and went to business school and later married away from here.

Mack married Mabel Bucher Feb. 25, 1912. Mabel's mother's name was Catherine Van Houten. She was raised in Churubusco, Indiana. Mabel's father's name was Tobias Bucher. He was born and raised in Wooster, Ohio.

* * * * *

BRICK MANUFACTURE AND BRICK BUILDINGS

My Dad, M. E. Curlee, remembers that there was a brick making place near Mountain Home on the old Livingston Farm (what is now the Love farm and where Rhea Love still lives).

A man from West Plains, Mo. would come down and help with the brick making. Several buildings in town here were built from the locally made bricks. Some were the "Old Main" at the College, the Boys' Dormitory. All of the Baker brothers stores, two of which are still standing and in use. One is on the east side of the square and the other is on the northwest corner of the square. The courthouse which was torn down and replaced by the present structure, and a two story school building built in 1906 which was torn down and replaced by the buff brick building on Main St. There are probably others we do not know about. Alyce Marbury

TALLEST MAN IN BAXTER COUNTY

Unfortunately, we do not have the exact height of the two men shown in the photos, but Mrs. Alyce Marbury who furnished the photograph of Robert Wadlow, said he was over 8-feet tall. She said that he was with the Peters Shoe Company and that the T. E. Robertsons' Store brought him to Mountain Home in the early 1930's. From the crowd shown, he must have been quite a curiosity. The other photo shows Cliff Maynard, the tallest man in Baxter County.

* * * * *

BURNING OF BAXTER COUNTY COURTHOUSE, FEB. 23, 1890

"A correspondent of the Gazette says that Sunday night about half past ten o'clock the court house of Baxter County burned to the ground, the work of an incendiary. It being Sunday night, there was no fire in the house, as none of the officers had been in their offices during the day. The building was set on fire in the southwest corner under the stairway and spread rapidly through the building and had reached the clerk's office before scarcely any of the records could be gotten out. Nearly all of the county records were lost. All indictments were burned. Circuit court being near at hand, it is evident that the object in burning the house was to get rid of the indictments. There is no clue yet as to who did the work; although some parties are suspected. There is \$15,000. insurance on the building and the house cost about \$8,000. Had the incendiary waited a few days longer the records would all have been in the fire-proof vault which is completed except for the cover. The air was still and damp as fortune would have it, else the entire town would have gone up in flames. (The Progress, March 1, 1890)

* * * * *

SHERIFF MOONEY'S ACCIDENTAL DEATH

Memories of 1907 were recalled by a letter from Spencer Petete of Holdenville, Okla., dated Dec. 14, 1975, to the Sheriffs' office of Baxter County. The matter was referred to Lloyd Fisk and he kindly gave us a copy of the letter. It read as follows:

Sheriff's Office, Baxter Co., Ark. Dear Sir: I am a member of the Hughes County Historical Society, Holdenville, Okla.

Some time ago they tore down the Frisco Freight Depot here in town. In the rubble there was an old telegram that was sent to different newspapers relating the death of a Sheriff Mooney of Baxter County, Ark.

Seems the sheriff was returning a prisoner from some place in New Mexico. As the train was coming into Holdenville the sheriff leaned over to look out the window when his gun fell from his belt. When the gun struck the floor it discharged killing the sheriff almost instantly.

This happened some time before statehood. Could you furnish the date of death, age, survivors, and what happened to the prisoner?"

SHERIFF MOONEY'S ACCIDENTAL DEATH - cont.

Mary Ann Messick in her HISTORY OF BAXTER COUNTY relates that:

"Eugene Mooney was elected sheriff in 1906. In 1907 he was called to New Mexico on the information that Jesse Roper (who killed A. G. Byler, the first sheriff of Baxter County) "using an alias - was being held in jail there. The prisoner turned out to be another man wanted in Baxter County and Sheriff Mooney started home with him. At Holdenville, Okla., Sheriff Mooney started to pull his gun from his pocket so he could rest easier during the long train trip. The gun discharged into his stomach, killing him within a few minutes. Dr. Jesse Mooney, Jr., the dead mans' brother, was called from McGehee, I. T. to take the prisoner and his brothers' body back to Arkansas".

* * * * *

From "EARLY DAYS & WAR TIMES IN NORTHERN ARKANSAS" by Thomas Jerome Ester (formerly of Yellville, Ark.) Lubbock, Texas. (The MOUNTAIN ECHO, Yellville, Ark.)

"About 1867 and while Baxter County was still a part of Marion, the seat, or rather the records, were moved from Yellville to Mooneys' ferry on White River; but after a short and precarious existence there, they were moved back to Yellville."

"I presume you have heard of the Brooks and Baxter war - 1868, I believe. Both claimed the election but Baxter was seated and made us a good governor - much better, I guess, than Joe Brooks would have made, for he was said to be a very crooked politician. But quite an army of supporters on each side gathered at Little Rock and excitement ran high, but reason prevailed and good results followed and peace and quiet were restored.

"It was during Baxters' administration that Baxter County was formed from Marion, Stone and Izard counties, and Mountain Home was made the county seat. Also Boone County was formed from Marion and Carroll Counties, and Bellefonte made the Marion County seat, but later the county seat was moved, by election, to Harrison.

"W. F. Eatman, Sr., was the first clerk of Baxter County and served efficiently and creditably for fourteen years, and B. J. Byler served in the same manner as first sheriff for twelve years and quit voluntarily and under strong solicitation to run again, but he told them to try another man. The people then sent him to the legislature and later elected him sheriff of Baxter County again. And while serving this term, a very sad and unfortunate thing happened. Sheriff Byler, having a writ to serve on Joe Twiggs, went to the Twiggs' home for that purpose, and Jesse Roper, who was Joe's pal and courting Joe's sister, shot Byler from the corner of the house with a Winchester. J. G. Byler was one of the finest men and one of the best sheriffs Arkansas ever had. Roper escaped and although big rewards were offered by county and state and great effort was made to capture him, he never was caught. Afterwards, an officer with a posse of men, went to arrest Joe and in the attempt Joe was shot in the shoulder and his father killed. Joe was lodged in jail but escaped.

(cont. next page)

EARLY DAYS & WAR TIMES IN NORTHERN ARKANSAS - cont.

"In the winter and spring of 1877 I was a student at Mountain Home Academy, under the instruction of Professors A. J. Truman and J. S. Howard, two noble men and fine teachers. Jessie White and Charley Lewallen, also of Marion County, were classmates with me and other noble young men of other parts whose memory I cherish. I cherish the memory of old friends and of associates of childhood, young manhood, school days and the long ago, and it seems like there is but a few now left, but thank God and good fortune we have new friends and pleasant associations, and without these, life would be a blank. Who can estimate the worth of true friends and true companions? What is life worth without them? And what is life to those who are friends to no one? Love and friendship - what is greater? What more spiritual and inspirational, and Christ like? Imbibe it, live it, and enjoy it.

"After close of school at Mountain Home, I taught a three month term of free school at Gassville and finished paying my board and tuition. The next year I married a good woman and settled down on my little homestead where Buck Barnet now lives."

* * * * *

ANNALS OF ARKANSAS, 1947. Edited by Dallas T. Herndon. (Hopkinsville, Kentucky, and Little Rock, Ark.: The Historical Record Association, 1947).

BAXTER COUNTY - Population, 1940, 10,281. Named for Elisha Baxter.

By the act of March 24, 1873, parts of Fulton, Izard, Marion and Searcy counties were taken to form a new county, which was named BAXTER, in honor of Elisha Baxter, then governor of the state. It is one of the northern tier of counties and its area is 586 square miles. The elevation varies from 800 to 1,400 ft. The agricultural products are alfalfa, corn, oats, wheat and fruits. Zinc, manganese, marble and phosphate are found in the county. Lumbering is an important industry.

When the county was created Mountain Home was designated as the temporary county seat and was afterward made the permanent county seat. It is centrally located, was incorporated on April 16, 1888, and in 1920 reported a population of 492. It has a canning factory, two weekly newspapers, electric light, a sawmill, a bank, a baseball bat factory, and a number of mercantile establishments. A baptist college is located here. The nearest railroad station is Cotter, on the White River Valley division of the Missouri Pacific, which runs along the north bank of the White River and is the only railroad in the county.

Besides Mountain Home, Cotter, Gassville and Norfolk are incorporated towns. Cotter is situated in the southwestern part on the White River. with 1920 population of 884. Gassville reported a population of 191 in 1920. Norfolk has several sawmills, a weekly newspaper, a telephone exchange and general store. Amos, Big Flat, Henderson and McPherson are the principal villages.

* * * * *

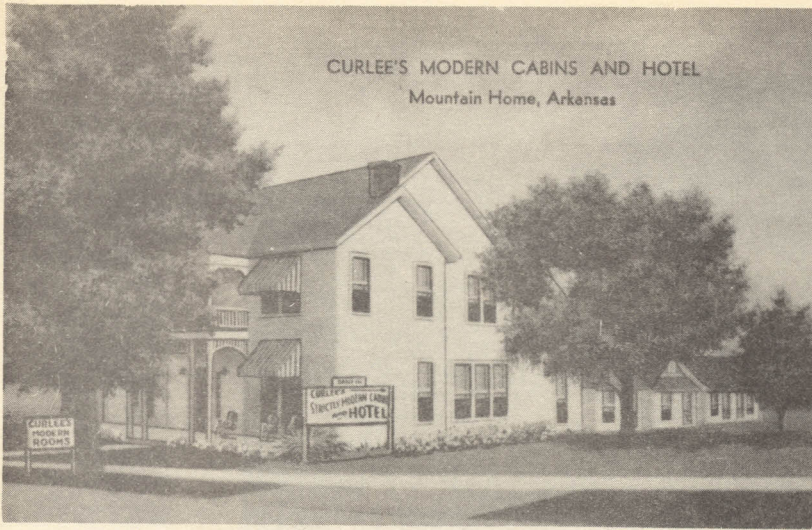


CLEARING 'HIGHWAY' THROUGH GOODALL HOLLOW



UNCLE DAVE PRESSLEY WITH HIS ROTTING COTTON

CURLEE'S MODERN CABINS AND HOTEL
Mountain Home, Arkansas



MACK AND MABEL CURLEE

CURLEE'S MODERN CABINS AND HOTEL



CLIFF MAYNARD - THE TALLEST MAN IN BAXTER COUNTY.
WHO IS THE OTHER MAN?



ROBERT WADLOW - over 8 ft. tall