

Baxter County History



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

Photo courtesy of Ray Grass

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BAXTER COUNTY HISTORY

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Garvin Carroll, Box 309, Mountain Home, Arkansas 72653

VICE PRESIDENT

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SECRETARY

Roma Stickford, 119 Leonard Dr., Mountain Home, Arkansas 72653
r

TREASURER

Elizabeth Smith, 1634 S. W. Highway 62, Mountain Home, Arkansas 72653

EDITOR

Lynn McGuire, Route #3, Box 165, Mountain Home, Arkansas 72653

HISTORIAN

Hazen Bonow, Route #4, Box 509, Mountain Home, Arkansas 72653

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PROGRESS OF THE BAXTER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
by Hazen Bonow, Historian

February 7, 1978 - Meeting cancelled because of the weather.

March 7, 1978 - Our president Garvin Carroll introduced our speaker Mayor Rex Bayless of Cotter, who gave a very informative talk of the progress he has made and what he hopes will be accomplished in Baxter County on beautification and cleaning of our water, air, roadsides and restoring of our old cemeteries.

Mr. Bayless is on the Manpower Advisory Commission and Executive Director of the Northwest Development which includes nine counties in Northern Arkansas. He is also on the Governor's Advisory Committee and the 208 program.

One priority is obtaining funds from the Federal Government for cleaning up old cemeteries. There are enough working tools, trucks, etc. but cement and fencing are needed and funds are not furnished for this purpose. He has a federally paid supervisor who is very good and he has plenty of manpower. This project will last 20 months.

Cemeteries on old farms or by old churches and schools which are now gone are in the need of care. Some have already been destroyed. Any persons knowing of such cemeteries in need of care should give Mayor Bayless the locations. He works in a radius of 15 to 20 miles.

On May 18, 19 & 20 there is to be a clean up in the County. Dump trucks will collect all kinds of old unwanted materials, furniture, etc.

Planting trees has already started for beautification. 500 red maples have been planted in Cotter.

North Arkansas needs a TV tower to pick up weather warnings and Station 2. There will be a public meeting on the 208 program and the priority should be Baxter County. The public should attend and support the project.

On May 28th the Governor will be at Cotter and he will also attend the July 4th celebration of the first clean water system. Everyone is welcome.

April 4 - The speaker was Lynn McGuire who is writing his family history. He gave some interesting details and amusing stories told by his grandfather. His detailed ancestry will appear in the quarterly at a later date.

April 27 - Our Genealogy Seminar "How to Climb a Family Tree" was given by Gay Perry of Logan, Utah. It was a four hour session with two hours given for beginners and two hours for the more advanced. There were 49 admissions.

May 3 - Quinby Smith introduced our husband and wife team, Jose W. and Margie Daniel, who gave us information of the early newspapers of Mountain Home and Cotter. Mr. Daniel has been on the BAXTER BULLETIN staff for about 30 years and has had a newspaper career of 43 years.

He was always interested in newspaper work so in 1935 he applied for and received an apprenticeship at the BAXTER COUNTY CITIZEN. T. N. Davis, the owner, was an excellent and patient teacher.

All type was hand set at that time. Medical advertisements were on the front page because of the barter system where equipment and suppoes were furnished the paper in return for advertising space.

Mr. Daniel's first attempt at securing advertising for the paper was made at Wylo Dyer's Barber Shop. He exchanged a 25¢ ad for a haircut. Mr. Davis let him keep the 25¢. His first weeks salary was \$1.00, the next week his salary was doubled to \$2.00.

The BAXTER COUNTY CITIZEN was first published by N. H. Biggar in 1877. In 1880 he sold it to Professor Howard of the Baptist College.

In 1895 the CITIZEN'S editors were expected to and would always add interesting comments to the news items. The paper got much information and new technology from tramp printers. The traveled back and forth from north and south with the seasons only working for a short time. They were interesting and honest men.

The BAXTER BULLETIN was founded in 1901 by J. G. Copeland. He also bought the Cotter Courier in 1903. It changed hands often.

In 1911 the COTTER RECORD was published by Mr. and Mrs. Routzong. It was leased out in 1935 but finally expired in 1935. The BAXTER BULLETIN took over the subscriptions.

There were several small newspapers published in Mountain Home, Norfolk and Three Brothers but were short lived.

(Editor's note...Mr. & Mrs. Daniels have graciously agreed to write the story of Baxter County newspapers for us. It will appear in a later issue of this journal.)

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GENEALOGICAL INFORMATION
BAXTER COUNTY, ARKANSAS

by:

Joseph and Irma Bloom - Route 6, Mountain Home, Arkansas

BAXTER COUNTY MARRIAGES - NOVEMBER 1, 1891 to:

W. J. White to Dashia E. Brewer	Nov. 1, 1891
A. W. Brown to Nancy A. Smith	Nov. 5
John W. Trimble to Mrs Elizabeth Waggoner	Nov. 8
W. J. Eatman to Mattie Pemberton	Nov. 8
J. W. Trammell to Amanda W. Reed	Nov. 11
H. H. Russell to Maude Walker	Nov. 19
W. H. Satterfield to Lucy C. Morris	Nov. 20
W. A. Avey to Martha Freeman	Nov. 21
W. F. Talbert to Caldonia Hawkins	Nov. 22
James Petrick to Birdie Hammer	Nov. 26
C. R. Covington to Martha J. Cunningham	Dec. 2
J. N. Lonon to Cyntha F. Thomas	Dec. 3
L. M. Stephens to Donnie McCormack	Dec. 10
W. E. Hickman to Susan Pruett	Dec. 11
A. J. Hand to Leamak Crider - Affidavit for marriage license	Dec. 12
G. S. Johnston to Mary A. Fitzpatrick	Dec. 13
J. H. Talburt to Mary B. Lester	Dec. 16
Taylor Holland to Sallie Fout	Dec. 17
James Perry to Mary L. Cook	Dec. 20
R. M. Pugh to Cory E. Wright	Dec. 20
W. R. Bengeman to Delia Kelley	Dec. 21
L. B. Lonnon, Jr. to Annie Bettis	Dec 24
Chas. M. Dry to Clotilda Stafford	Dec. 27
Jas. L. Dulandy to Mrs. Lucinda Hibdon	Dec. 29
Henry A. Fletcher to Sarah M. Sinor	Dec. 30
B. M. Vangordin to Mrs Mary A. Miller	Jan. 1, 1892
T. M. McKinney to Nancy Queen	Jan. 6
A. D. Jordon to Sallie Eubank	Jan. 7
S. C. Beavers to Ella Haney	Jan. 14
J. W. Farley to Eliza Lyles	Jan. 16
James H. Robertson to Tennesa Douglas	Jan. 24
John T. Fluty to Mary E. Claiborne	Jan. 26
J. T. Ivester to Annie Moore	Jan. 30
William Hayes to Nevada Crane	Jan. 31
Wesley Hedrick to Eliza Aikin	Feb. 3
W. C. Robertson to Laura F. Beck	Feb. 4
E. D. Hudson to Malinda King	Feb. 7
J. R. Russell to Clemey Holcomb	Feb. 17
W. M. Bramlet to Georgia A. Martin	Feb. 21

FROM MISSISSIPPI TO ARKANSAS

By G. N. (Newt) Nelson

And an early settlement there
in 1870, seventy-six years ago.

(I have known of the existence of the following for a long time and had to contact several members of the Nelson family before bringing this delightful story to light again. I just couldn't resist it as a sequel to last journal's lead story on the Nelson-Eubank families. See Vol 4, No. 1.....Editor)

I was born on October 21st, 1866 in Lee County, Mississippi becoming the eighth heir of William and Martha Carter Nelson. Five boys and three girls, however, the oldest boy got burned to death in childhood.

The Civil War had ended which freed twenty negroes from my Father some of which he had paid \$2,000.00 each for; and the negroes having stolen and carried off in sacks every ear of 4 acres of corn, my Father and about twenty other families decided to move to Texas.

The wagons those days were all tarpolian and pine tar was used for wagon grease. The families all met at our house and burned the tar for their trip by filling a large sugar kettle with rich pine then inverting the kettle on a large sand rock and building a fire on top of it. The tar could soon be seen trickling down the rock into the buckets. Every wagon had a bucket and a paddle swung on the coupling pole. The tarpolian wagon is one without castiron box in the hub or castiron thimble on the spindle. The wheel was held on by an iron pin called the linch-pin.

Everything having been made ready on the 11th day of October 1879 we all "set sail" for Texas. Daddy had two wagons, a hack for the family to ride in, a saddle mare "Old Sal", two dogs "Watch" and "Bulger". There were no lines on the oxen they were guided by the command voice of the driver, this command was forced by a lash from the driver's whip. One of the wagons was drawn by a yoke of oxen "Buck" and "Ball". A "Gee Buck" with a lash on the left side and they would go to the right, a "Woh", "Come here Ball" with a lash on the right side and they would turn to the left. On dangerous places the driver would get one of them by the horn or top of the yoke bow for safety first. This rarely happened except over bridges or on boats.

I rode in the ox-wagon. In Memphis, Tennessee Daddy bought a box of soda crackers and set by my side in the front. A box of crackers in those days were made of wood and contained twenty-five or thirty pounds of crackers.

We only made about twenty-miles per day, camping the first night just twenty miles from Memphis we heard the Memphis town clock strike from the camp. We crossed the Mississippi River at Memphis on a flat boat pulled across with a cable by two men. The dogs swimming. On we went to Newport, Arkansas, Jacksonport, Arkansas where the merchants told us of a bunch of horse thieves operating around there so all bought trace chains and padlocks. Sure enough about midnight three men made a run into camp for some stock and finding them locked they darted behind the stock to prevent gun fire and fled.

44.

A watch was then put out for the night and about 1:00 o'clock a.m. a man was seen about half-way into one of the wagons, he too escaped gun fire by dodging behind the stock. On we went to Batesville, Calico Rock and Norfor,. Just below what is now the Norfolk Dam we began to meet returners from Texas saying everyihing was burned up there and that movers had to buy their water for camping purposes. Our bunch begin to drop out and locate, so on the hight of Novermber 11th we landed on Uncle Jim and Aunt Sadie Carter's place just eight miles south of Mountain Home, Arkansas. He had preceeded us and was running a little trading post in a log building.

Daddy bought a small farm on the approaches of Jenkins Creek about three miles from Uncle Jim's. We children would amuse ourselves by watching Sigh Jenkins pass wearing his home-made coon skin cap and also Bluebuck Gilbert passing every Monday morning, riding a big blue and white spotted steer on a two bushel sack of corn going to a water powered grist mill on Big Creek about eight miles away.

Before 1870 was out, Daddy swapped his place for a larger one about two and one-half miles south and in what was later called "The Mississippi Bend", a big bend in White River five miles away, south, eight miles southwest and two and one-half miles west. On this new farm there was much to be done and Daddy knew exactly how to get it done. He cleared and fenced thirty acres of land in 1871, broke it twice with oxen. Built a large frame dwelling with four fireplaces, put in a stock of groceries in the upstairs. We hauled our goods from Springfield, Missouri.

Our dog "Bulger" only came a hundred miles with us where he turned back for Mississippi. Daddy went back to Mississippi in two years and "Bulger" was there on the old farm.

In the Black River bottoms we saw a big bear behind a log. It got up and watched us pass and then lay back down. Daddy was alone in the hack so did not bother it.

1871 is still known as the dryest year to date so we made nothing. We built a cotton gin, run by treadwheel. It was a large incline wheel about thirty feet in diameter. A floor about eight feet wide was put on the outer part of this wheel. On this eight or twelve cattle was tied side by side on the floor, in pairs, the heaviest one on the outside. The lower edge of the wheel was about eight inches from the ground and the high side was about four feet high. The gearing was made of seasoned hickory cogs about four inches wide, two inches thick and sixteen inches long. These were shaped then boiled and seasoned. Tar was used on the cogs. A large log with rocks piled on it was the brake. Some0 times the brake would not stop the wheel, then some two or three would work their way into the front of the cattle and beat them in the face and make them all pull back. Other times they would throw blocks and let them roll down and clog up the lower side and stop the gin. The cotton was pressed by horse power. At this gin three cents per bushel was a big price for cotton seed and were often given away for the hauling off.

Daddy spread out in all ways in his business career. He built a store house, black smith shop and barn. As teh country settled up the cotton production became so great that our gin was too slow so Daddy built another gin house and put in steam power and adding

a saw mill. a flour and grist mill.

About this time a neighbor, Y. N. Patterson built a ground-hog thrasher. It was run by horse power, the cylinder and concave were driven full of beheaded spike nails for teeth, and driven by a large cable made by the owner. The wheat and straw all came out on a big wagon sheet, the straw was raked off with wooden forks, the chaff was blown out by the wind. Two men could thrash and clean up about ten bushel of wheat per day. Later he got a big wheat fan and the writer has the end of one finger missing, cut off by the gear cogs of this fan. I was turning it to make two pups bark when this accident happened.

We needed a blacksmith so one day a mover with several children came along looking for a location, there was not a house for him to live in so Daddy decided to build him a house. He put log cutters to work and teams to hauling and a fireman at the mill and a man clearing off ground: by noon they had the first load of oak lumber on the ground and the third evening the man moved into a 16 X 18 boxed house with a side room.

We raised lots of hogs, generally killing 150 head a year. We made two killings, generally on Christmas and New Years to keep us boys employed. One year we shipped several loads of bacon down the river by steam boat. We also shipped shelled corn, live hogs, and cotton. There were three steam boats that run the river. The biggest boat the "Alberta" was owned by Captain Smith, "The Lady Boon" was owned by Capt. Woodbury and "The Myrtle" was owned by Capt. Will Shipp.

In the meantime a cousin of ours, George Osborn got a post office established in his residence about three miles east and was appointed postmaster. He named the office Buford after his baby boy, but after a while Daddy was appointed postmaster and moved the office to his store. This established the town of Buford eight miles south and one mile west of Mountain Home, Arkansas.

Daddy made several attempts to locate a doctor in Buford. He financed one man to school to get a diploma but he stayed about a year and moved off to Gassville, he located another from Springfield, Missouri, and I was the first patient he had. I had typhoid fever and he handled the case pretty good, bathing and dieting me and I was soon well. Daddy sold him a big fine horse on credit. One night the doctor decided to run away on this horse but Daddy got word beforehand and caught him and brought him and the horse back. In a day or two officers from Missouri came and arrested him and took him back to Springfield, Missouri where he was sent to the state penitentiary for stealing and practicing on his brother's diploma.

A tornado blew down both gin houses so we built another up-to-date house and installed new machinery, adding a self-feeder and condenser. We had only run this gin about a month until it burned. It was full of seed cotton, some of which Daddy had to pay for. He had also lost some money in the failure of a cotton commission co., so after this he shipped his cotton to Hill Fountain and Company, well known through-out this part. Because of the bad luck, this company bought and shipped Daddy \$1,000 worth of dry goods, billed them to him and said pay for these goods when you wish.

One Monday morning after crops were laid by Daddy was grinding up the axes to put men to building another gin house, when he told me to go up to the old gin house and bring an ax. I hiked up there, about two city blocks, picked up a grubbing hoe and came hiking back with it. Daddy was bent over the grindstone to grind the hoe. He slapped it on the grindstone as an ax, it did not fit and he liked to have fell over. I laughed a grin which he saw so he warped my pants with the hoe handle and said, "go bring me what I told you", and I did. Daddy did not whip often but it was easy to recollect from one whipping to another.

Daddy died in 1889 from over work. He was only 59 years old, and never got out of the yard after selling his mercantile business late in 1888. He left a will and named myself and a neighbor, Capt. J. B. Harper executors. The estate was invoiced at about \$20,000 and we wound it up with heirs buying most of the real estate. We four brothers bought the gin and mill.

In July 1889 we organized the firm of Nelson Bros., and bought for the firm a stock of groceries from J. H. Case, father-in-law of Tom Shiras one of the BAXTER BULLETIN owners in Mountain Home, The deal was consumated through Judge Sam Russell who was running the business since Mr. Case was on his death bed. I moved the goods to Buford and opened up in Dad's old storehouse. Soon after I was appointed postmaster at Burord. The appointment being made by President Grover Cleveland under his first term. I had lots to learn and nothing to forget and devoted my time to the store and post office, adding farming and stock raising of all kinds. I run things along for thirty-one years selling out my mercantile business and resigning as postmaster in October 1920.

On July 1, 1891 I married Miss. Nannie Davis a native of Alabama, to this union was born eleven children, seven boys and four girls all of which are still living except one boy who died at the age of 22 years.

We had some mighty hard years along that time but money would buy a lot. I sold bale cotton at the gin one year for $4\frac{1}{2}$ cent per lb. and hauled a load of hogs to Mountain Home and sold them to Henry Redus the mill man for $1\frac{3}{4}$ cents per lb., he fed them on 40¢ wheat bran. I packed up eleven hundred dozen eggs in a wagon box and sent them to West Plains, Missouri, about 60 miles away and never broke an egg. The same wagon hauled back a load of cook stoves and broke everyone of them some beyond reapiir. These eggs sold at auction in West Plains for $4\frac{1}{2}$ cents per dozen. But money was worth something those days and a family could do their Xmas on a couple of dollars, and for New Years' have some of the family ask what went with the rest of the Xmas money. In my career I have been called the Wheat King, the Egg King, and the Hog King.

On one Sunday meeting my boy preached, another son led the choir and my daughter played the piano. This I had hoped to see for quite a spell.

I left St. Louis by train at 8:30 p.m. the day President Cleveland was elected the 2nd term. About midnight I roused up and asked the conductor if he knew how the election went and he said the D___ Country has gone to H---Cleveland carried everything.

On one hot midafternoon in July 1890 I was sitting in the Buford Post Office when I heard a noise out front, I looked up and saw a man had rode up and threw his bridle reins over on the porch floor and had alited and was unbuckling a scabard containing a 44-caliber Winchester. He had on a four inch belt 100% filled with 44 cartridges and a big six shooter on either side. I thought "hold-up sure". I got up and met him about half-way and right where the money drawer was fastened under the counter. He came in and introduced himself as Mr. Brannon of Taney County, Missouri. He said he was out of money and wanted to sell me the Winchester, belt and scabbard. I told him that money was too scarce and that I did not have much but that I would like to have the gun and reached over the counter for the gun to look at. He stepped back threw the point of the gun toward the floor and begin and extracted sixteen bullets from the magazine, sort of half smiling handed me the empty gun saying that he would take \$2.50 in cash and \$10.00 in goods for the whole outfit so I traded with him. About the same time of day, two days later two men stopped at the store and asked if I had seen a man pass there riding a tall sorrell horse and heavily armed. I said I should say that he was but that I bouth his Winchester and told them he went south toward the Nelson ferry. About the same time of day three days later those two men came back leading the horse with saddle on but they said they got the horse but the man got away. One looked sarcasticly at the other and smiled.

I always thought they got the man too but what they did with him I never could figure out. They must have caught him in the Sycamore Mountains in Stone County, Arkansas.

In the mercantile business when the coffee trade changed from green to roasted, the change took considerable coaxing. Some of the old sisters would remark like this, "I will parch my own coffee, I like to smell it parching". To off-set this I would show them the size of \$1.00 package of each, this would stop the argument. It was about the same thing when the change was made from bulk roast in one pound packages which I sold 20 pks for \$1.00. Granulatee sugar from 18 to 20 pounds for \$1.00, package soda 3½ to 4½ cents per package and wood shoe pegs at 5¢ per pt.

On the 11th day of October 1920 I sold out my Buford, Ark., property consisting of 920 acres of land and merchandise for \$16,500 and moved to Mountain Home to educate the children.

I figure I have no just right to complain for having existed. My ten living children have all proved themselves to be men and women. All make friends wherever they go, none have ever given us any trouble. My only regret is that I did not get a better education. I see I could have been more useful to myself and those around me. I never fail to encourage school students to stay on the job until completed.

I am now 80 years old and soon at best must lay down the walks of this life and meet the loved ones gone on before me. Arn't it Wonderful! By - Respectfully, G. N. (George Newton) Nelson, Oct. 25, 1946.

P.S. I gues Hill Fountain & Co. got their \$1,000 as the company owed Daddy \$1,600 when he died. G.N.N.

THE MOUNTAIN HOME SQUARE 50 YEARS AGO
 THE WAY I REMEMBER IT FROM APPROXIMATELY
 1926 to 1929

By: Quinby Smith

(Editor's Note: Quinby, when a boy, sold GRIT papers. If anyone was a stranger in town or if anything of note happened ge was in an excellent position to know.)

There was an iron fence around the court yard. Part of this fence was salvaged and is now at the Mountain Home Cemetery on South Main Street behind what is now called the Middle School. There were probably other fences before this one because much moment is to be found about the necessity of a fence. "Looking Backwards" a weekly feature in the BAXTER VULLETIN taken from its files shows that on March 13, 1903 the following appeared in its publication, "Seven outlawed shoats have this week been emphasizing their contempt for the hog ordinance by rooting up all the grass in the courthouse yard." On May 8, 1903 it was felt that a solution to the problem had been found when the paper stated, "The Courthouse Park is now enclosed with a fine woven wire fence. The old plank one was torn down last week. The woodwork of Baxter County's Hall of Justice has been adorned with a new coat of paint, which adds much to its appearance." However, on May 22, 1903 the public had to be admonished, "Now that the county has placed a good fence around the Courthouse Park, persons having business in the park or courthouse will confer a lasting favor on a long-suffering public by closing the gates after them, thus excluding the outlawed hogs that seem determined to take the town."

As a partial solution to the aboved named problem a series of posts were driven in the ground forming a gateway that was too narrow to allow stock to enter yet wide enough for the pedestrian to go through. These gages were later replaced with stiles, or steps, over the fence constructed of concrete.

On the north side of the court yard just outside the fence was a marble ground where the neighborhood boys gathered after school and on weekends to play. There was a similar marble ground on the south west corner.

There was a cistern at the north east corner of the courthouse.

The first courthouse on the square was af frame construction. Because of the fire hazard a brick building, on the courthouse grounds, was started and was to be used for storing records. The courthouse burned before this building was completed so many county records were destroyed. This building was demolished when the present courthouse was built and was never used for its intended purpose.

The courthouse was replaced with a two story brick structure and among other county offices contained the offices of the County Superentendent of Schools and County Agriculture Agent. Brick for its construction possibly came from the area around what is now Ninth and South Streets.

Jack Hornbuckle an auctioneer until the World War II years would hold sales on teh square. These sales were usually for the purpose of selling out household goods and farm stock and equipment for those who had decided to leave the area.

In order to set an example and for political mileage when whiskey stills were discovered by law enforcement officers they were always brought to the courthouse square to be destroyed. The moonshine was poured out on the ground (at least some of it) and the still equipment was burned and broken up with axes.

The buildings on the east side of the square going from the south to the north side were occupied by various enterprises. They were as follows: Farmers & Merchants Bank (subsequently forced to sell to the Peoples Bank); Earl and Daisy Bryant's Grocery (Earl and Daisy were brother and sister); M. E. Curlee's Drug Store (Alyce Marbury's father. Alyce is a member of the BAXTER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY. Also see Vol. 2, No. 1 and Vol. 2, No. 2 for conversations with this pioneer business man.); Foley Hardware (subsequently became Wayland's Hardware. This building was moved to behind the present Roland's Store and is still standing.); The next was a vacant lot; Johnston's Harness Shop (He was quick to correct anyone who referred to him as Mr. Johnson. This building was purchased by Dr. E. M. Gray and moved to the location now occupied by Saltzman Clinic. In fact this building constitutes the center portion of the existing structure. As it became necessary to enlarge the clinic additions were built around it.) Next, the Mooney Drug Store. (Dr. Mooney's office was in the rear. For some interesting and often very funny stories about this pioneer doctor talk to Robert Tipton. Robert drove him on his rounds through these hills.) We are not quite sure what the second floor of this building was used for and if any one knows we would like to make it a part of the record.

In the north east corner of the square sat the Fisk Grocery. (This business was later sold to the Nelson's. See Vol. 4, No. 1 of the BAXTER COUNTY HISTORY.)

Then proceeding west on the north side of the square there was the Nat Dyer Law Office. (After Nat's death in an automobile accident on Highway 65 south of Marshall, Arkansas, Mrs. Dyer and their six girls moved to El Dorado, Arkansas. She still remains active in business affairs in Mountain Home.

Then came Chester Gloer Grocery and Dry Goods; a vacant lot; Tom Martin's Jewelry; Joe George Land Office; Dr. Oyler's Dentist Office; a taxi stand operated by Earl Bibler; the Tanner Shoe Store; Dr. J. T. Tipton Drug Store (Another pioneer doctor and the father of the Robert Tipton mentioned earlier); and finally a vacant lot on which the Peoples Bank building was constructed at a later date.

On the north west corner of the square Cora Bodenhamer had a ladies millinery and hardware store. (The tenant previous to her was the Dr. J. T. Tipton Drug Store.)

Going south on the west side of the square there was the Delapp Grocery; a vacant lot; Dick Russell's Butcher Shop; and the BAXTER COUNTY CITIZEN. (A newspaper owned by Murphy Davis and Dick Cowan. It was purchased by the BAXTER BULLETIN at a later date. The owners of these two newspapers were very close personal friends, often helping each other if there was a break down of equipment.); another vacant lot; George Higgenbottom Grocery and Jim Tracy's General Store. (This store had everything if Uncle Jim could just find it. He was the father of Nora Jones, (See Vol. 3, No. 1 of BAXTER COUNTY HISTORY), Nellie Mitchell and Jewell Tracy Nelson.

On the south side of the square going east was the Albert Baker General Store. At that time a frame structure with a side room and a vacant lot on the immediate east. (This building was sold by Albert Baker to T. E. "Ed" Robertson and in the process of remodeling and extending the building west to Main Street it collapsed. The back portion continued to be used as a butcher shop by "Little Tony" Bacheral and a storage area for inventory. When the building was repaired it was extended to the east to include what is now the OTASCO Store.) (Your Editor loved bananas and could get three for a nickel from "Little Tony". Everywhere else would only give you two for that price.)

Next was the Peoples Bank. (The vault was under the stairs to the second floor.); The general store owned by T. E. Robertson. (This became the Everybody's Store when Mr. Robertson bought the adjacent property from Albert Baker. Lloyd Fisk has one of the original stock certificates.); a vacant lot and a frame building that housed the Ralph Morris Hardware Store. (This building burned one Saturday night. This was either more interesting than the movie or too good a chance to miss getting two show for the same money so the movie theatre stopped its showing so everyone could see the fire. Exploding ammunition made this a very spectacular occurrence.)

Off the square going east and on the south side of Sixth Street was Halburt's Mill. There was done all kinds of mill work such as planing, sawing and shaping and it was very interesting to see and smell the saw dust and shavings as they came from the machines. On 7th Street and just south of the Halburt's Mill was the Downward Mill which operated in much the same way. Both of these buildings were frame.

East of Downward's Mill was the Howlett Gun Shop. (He was referred to, by everyone, as "Old Man Howlett. He also owned some rental houses nearby.

Between Halburt's and Downward's Mills Will Morris had a produce store where he bought eggs, cream and chickens and Dow Jones had a building that he had heavily insulated and used as an ice house where he stored the ice after he hauled it from Cotter. Across the street was a blacksmith shop.

On the north east corner of 6th and Baker Streets the telephone company was in the front room of a private residence.

On the south west corner of 5th and Baker Streets was the Commercial Hotel. (This building was torn down in 1970 to make room for the present parking lots serving as off street parking for the north side of the square.)

On the east side of Main Street (north of the vacant lot that became the site of the Peoples Bank.) was a small frame building occupied by Seth Horton as a law office. The BAXTER BULLETIN was in the building between these two and extended back behind the Martin Jewelry Store that was on the square.

On the north west corner of 6th and Main Streets was the Baker Brothers General Store. (They had a long arm affair rigged up on a huge stone base that was used to unload cotton from wagons.)

The Christian Church was on the north side of 6th and west of Main Street behind Baker Brothers Store. The Horton residence was north of Baker Brothers on the west side of Main Street and south of 5th Street.

On the south west corner of 6th Street going west off the square was Jess Copeland's Butcher Shop. On the north side of 7th Street going west was Luke Mitchell's blacksmith shop. To the immediate north of it, on Hickory Street, was Omar Bucher's Lumber Yard and Mill. (Mr. Bucher was the father of Zella Wolf, a member of the BAXTER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY.)

On the south west corner of Main and 7th Streets (the present Western Auto Store) was the Golden Rule Store owned and operated by Oscar and Leona Leonard. Another brother and sister owned business. Going south on Main Street and immediately adjacent to the Golden Rule Store was the Eatman Garage and going west on Seventh Street from this same store "Dad" Brown had a machine shop where he sharpened ploygh points, scythes and various hand tools.

South of Eatman's Garage Baxter County had a garage and shop and a number of lots extending to the west and at the corner of 8th and Main Streets Will Morris had a produce store. (This was his first store. The store mentioned earlier was at a later date.)

On the county property lived two indigents. Sally Suther did house work and washing. Johnny Paul Dill worked at many things such as taking care of Mae Dyer's cow, carrying in wood, etc.

Across Main Street and behind Albert Baker's Store Arthur Parks built a garage. In this general area and on the east side of Main was a hotel. (Probably the McClure Hotel.)

On the south east corner of the square was the Post Office and adjoining it on the east was O. B. McClure's Mortuary. Directly behind it and the Post Office was a building made from corrugated metal that was used as a warehouse for the mortuary. Sometime before the Farmer's and Merchant's Bank occupied the building across the street (presently Rowland's) Laurel Talburt put in the first funeral home in Mountain Home. This was was sometime prior to 1911. O. B. McClure bought it from him and moved it across the street after building the addition to the post office building.

Adjecent to this building was a vacant lot and the next was where Mrs. Worthen lived. (She was the mothr of O. B. McClure and Charles Worthen and Billy Worthen's grandmother. Charles Wor then carried the Route #2 mail out of Mountain Home Post Office until he retired. Your editor was his substitute for a short time. The substitute was expected to "eat a bite" with her before leaving on the route just as Charles always did.

Behind Ralph Morris' Hardware on Baker Street lived another indigent. Martin Holland lived to be over 100 years of age.

On the south east corner of 7th and Baker Streets was the Hutchison Gin. In season this gin ran 24 hours a day. When the season was over cotton that was picked later was stored in frame sheds on the gin premises and a short operation period occured every spring for the benefit of the late harvestors. (Your editor had this experience. His last crop of cotton was grown in 1942. He collected for the sale of his crop from Jack Bonner in 1946 after three years of military service that took him half way around the world.) The engine operating this gin blew perfect smoke rings with one occaisionally going horizontal to the ground. We got used to the noise.

Wyatt Wolf put in a "light plant" at 9th and Baker Steets. (The present location of Peoples Bank.) It furnished electricity for lighting at night. However, the plant did operate all day on Wednesday. This was so the electric printing presses at the BULLETIN Office could be used to put out the weekly edition of the paper. The lucky housewife that owned an electric iron would take advantage of making this ironing day.

At South and 7th Streets Hicks Simpson had an apartment house. He had several tenants among them Dan Inlow, our school custodian for years, and a Mr. Zipert who did stone carving and was probably responsible for making tombstones for local cemeteries.

At the north west corner of 8th and South Streets there was a barn that went with the apartment house just mentioned. Here was where most of the area horse and mule trading took place.

On the north side of the square and just west of Dyer Law Office was a general store owned and operated by a Mr. Higgenbottom who also advertised that he served "chilli, soup, pin and coffee".

The Meers Bottling Plant that bottled "Big Boy" was on the south side of the square.

It is very hard to believe but Baxter County's population in 1900 was greater than in 1950. At one time the county had sixty school districts

THE BAXTER FULLETIN - LOOKING BACKWARDS

50 years ago - February 3, 1928

When a preacher pats me on the shoulder, holds my paw and grins and calls me "brother" or my wife lays her arm around my willowy neck and tells me I am the only handsom man that ever kissed her, a still small voice whispers to my soul, "Johnny get your gun. You are soon to be the victim of a swift and vigorous touch".

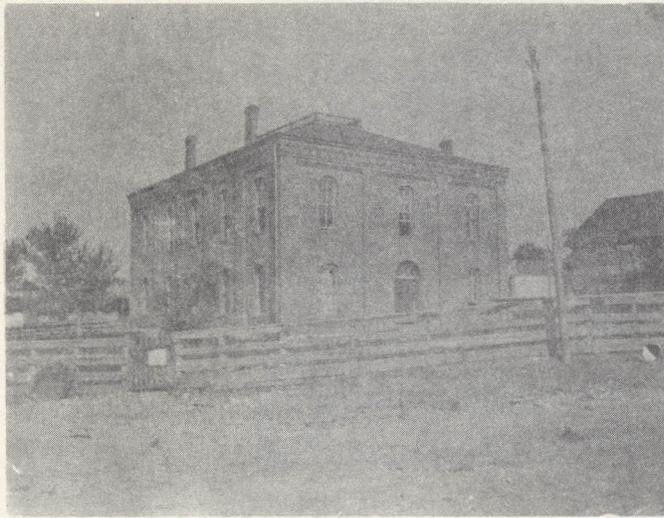
Ed...I don't know whether this was original Tom Shiras but I would sure love to continue to believe it....I am sure he said it without apology to either the preachers or his wife!!!!

On March 16, 1978 George and Kay Farnsworth were visiting her brother Albert's new homesite on Highway 342.

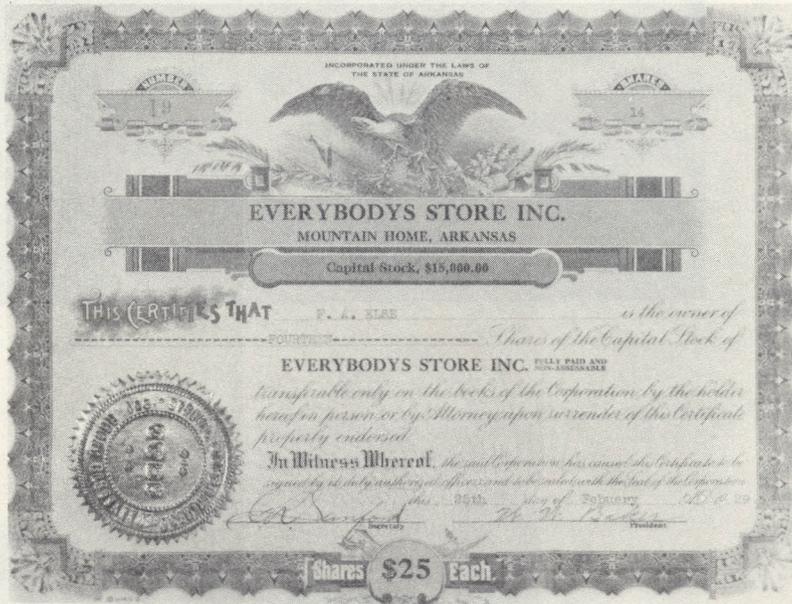
Kay is Max Webber's daughter. She had in per possession pictures of the old Webber homestead in the Arkansa area. Also pictures of her school class at Big Pond School and her graduating class at Mountain Home High School. Quinby Smith was in her graduating class. Guy Berry was the teacher.

Editor.

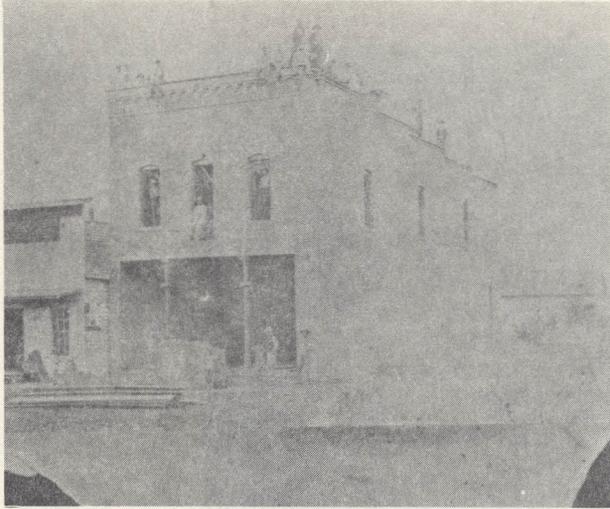
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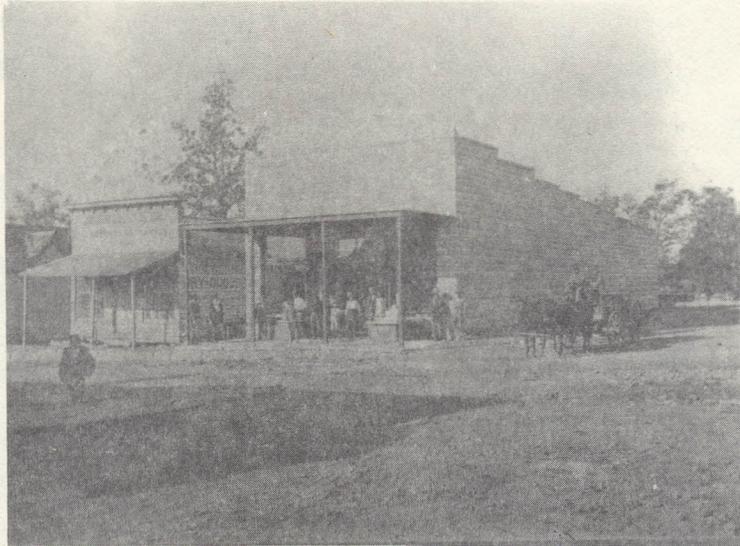
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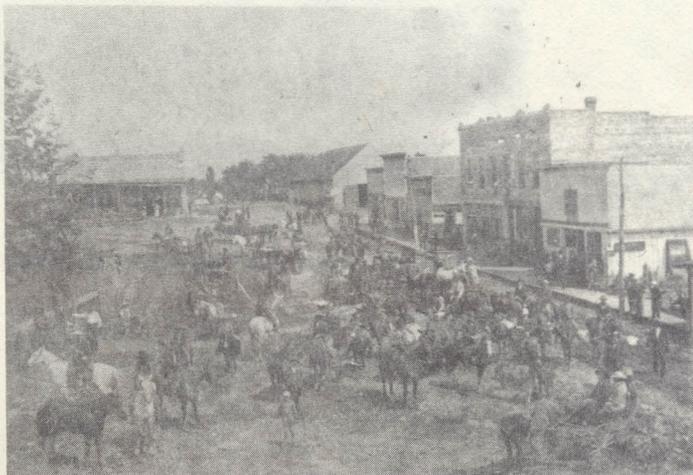
3.



4.



5.



Picture #1- The Baxter County Court House prior to 1905.

There was some provision in the "law of the land" that allowed a court house to be moved provided it was not a three story structure. Cotter wanted the court house in their city enough to petition for it to be moved there. W. F. Eatman, G. W. Walker and M. L. Mooney let a contract at the last minute to keep the court house in Mountain Home. Consequently, pictures of this structure can be dated two story before 1905 - three story after.

Picture #2 - An everybody's Store Stock Certificate. This stock was valued at \$25.00 per share fully paid and non-assessable

Picture #3 - At one time Dr. J. T Tipton had his drug store and medical offices in this building. The Cozy Theatre was on the second floor. The next occupant was Cora Bodenhamer Hardware and Millinery. Then it was purchased by J. D. Dryer. His tenants a jewelry store (Jesse Hunt worked there as the watchmaker), the Taft Brothers who operated the Mountain Home Cab Company and ran the upstairs hotel portion of the building/ (This building burned one bitterly cold night just a week or so after the city had purchased a new white Chevrolet fire truck. Your editor was a member of the volunteer fire department. We were accused of washing the fire out into the street and stomping it out with our feet. Something like 260,000 gallons of water was used but the building was a total loss. Sanders Realty now occupies this building and there are still apartments upstairs.

Picture #4 - This building has been occupied as a mercantile building the entire time it has been in existence. Pioneer merchants included the Golden Rule Store owned by Georgia and Oscar Leonard (brother and sister). The Douglas Store owned by "Blue" Douglas, the nickname coming from his fondness for blue paint. Lloyd Fisk brought the Western Auto franchise to Mountain Home. It remains our Western Auto Store to-day.

Picture #5 - Beginning at the upper left. McClure Mortuary (now Rowland's Store) until this business was moved across the street south. The livery barn, then Alf Hutchison Store, the A.A. Woff Store and finally in the lower right hand corner the Baker Store that was sold to T. E. "Ed" Robertson.

These pictures and much of the descriptive narrative were furnished by Lloyd Fisk. Many thanks from your editor and I am sure the membership for this treasure of information.
