

Baxter County History



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

Photo courtesy of Ray Grass

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PROGRESS OF THE BAXTER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Hazen Bonow, Historian

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January 1, 1980 - Being New Years Day meeting was cancelled.

February 5, 1980 - Meeting cancelled because of snow and ice.

March 4, 1980 - About 50 attended and enjoyed hearing Lynn McSpadden give his program and seeing his slides on the making of the dulcimer. James Hancock, a co-worker, played and sang using one of their walnut dulcimers.

Mr. McSpadden has 4 craftsmen in his shop at Mountain View. They work as a team always experimenting to improve the quality. Jean Simmons, an excellent folk performer, helps in his shop.

The dulcimer originated in the Appalachian mountain area. Mr. McSpadden first made the folk instrument in 1962-1963 and they now have made 6000. They also sell kits and 12,000 to 13,000 have been sold. They assemble about 20 per day and are shipped to many countries. The wood is of walnut or western spruce. He buys local walnut and it takes 18 months to 2 years to air dry the wood. It also takes months getting them assembled.

The buttons are rosewood from Germany. They have 3, 4, or 6 strings and these are made for them by one of the major old time string makers in this country. The frat board construction takes much sanding and hand rubbing preparing it for better tone and volume.

The program was very interesting and the music played was enjoyable and relaxing. He said, "There are no notes - you just play it". "The Dulcimer Shoppe" is located near Mountain View.

April 1, 1980 - Chancery Judge, Nell Powell Wright, gave a very interesting account of "The History of Courts in Baxter County".

The first Court was formed in 1872. In 1890 older records burned, although some were retained and recopied.

Court was held on the 2nd of March and the 2nd of September open, ing at 8:00 A.M. John W. Messick versus Samuel Lewis was the first case of the Circuit Court. Suit was filed over an estate and it was 7 years later, December 4, 1880 when the suit was finally disposed of. At that date Case Number 4 was filed.

In 1903 a law was passed to have a Chancery Judge in Baxter County, 8th Chancery District. The Judges salary was then \$3,000.00 per year. In 1875 there were 7 lawyers present at Circuit Court sessions. In 1877 there were 18 lawyers. The lawyers were very oratorical.

Mrs. Wrights father, she recalls, would let her go from Gassville to Mountain Home with him and she would watch court sessions while he was elsewhere taking care of his business. The courtroom had wooden benches and she would climb to the top bench to watch.

When the Justice of Peace Courts were held they were very dramatic and colorful. They handled misdemeanors and civil cases. The Chancery presided over the Probate Court.

May 6, 1980 - A large crowd came to hear our speaker, Ernie Deane, of Fayetteville, Arkansas, who has a column in 15 newspapers including our Baxter Bulletin.

His talk was a delight with humor and knowledge of our Ozark Country. He is an expert of Place - Names and that was the subject of his talk. He has spent 15 years investigating their origins. For 10 years he was the "Arkansas Traveler" columnist of the Arkansas Gazette and now writes the "Place-Names" column for them.

Mr. Deane said Fayetteville, Arkansas got its name from Fayetteville Tennessee, which in turn came from Fayetteville, North Carolina. Its origin was probably General Lafayette.

In some Indian language, Mr. Deane said "Ne" meant water and "Ska" meant white. Early French explorers renamed the aborigine "Neska" to "Riviere Blanc", but our English settlers choose to call it, in their language, "White River".

Many names are from the Indians and the French and our early settlers, names or events. They are hard to trace as many may just be anecdote.

Mountian Home was Rapps Barrens. Barren was a term for flat and Rapp probably was an early settler; therefore Rapps Barrens. Slaves owned by Col. Dodd, living down the river, spoke of this as their mountian home. The stories told are that the people here chose the name Mountian Home as its name.

Mr. Deane had interesting stories of places with the most probable name origins. We all enjoyed having the priviledge of hearing him speak.

EDITORS NOTE: Since the 1980 Election of Officers - Don Hubbell has graciously consented to be CO-EDITOR of our BAXTER COUNTY HISTORY.

GENEALOGICAL INFORMATION
BAXTER CO., ARKANSAS

Joseph and Irma Bloom Route 6 Box 352 Mtn. Home, Arkansas

Baxter Co. Marriages Sept. 9, 1893 to April 29, 1894

James L. Watson to Mollie Sims	Dec. 9, 1893
William T. Bryant to E. M. Franks	" 10
S. E. Phillips to Harriet McIntosh	" 10
R. L. Harp to Bertha Blount	" 14
Charles Lewallen to Mary J. Brewer	" 14
S. D. Hicks to Mary A. Dickerson	" 17
W. S. Deatherage to Jennie A. Londy	" 17
J. L. Clark to Maggie Fountain	" 22
G. W. Young to Maggie Evans	" 24
Lee Crotts to Annie Clark	" 28
W. G. Chandler to Mary Megee	" 30
Marion Querry to Mary F. Howard	" 31

W. R. Adams to Baney Parnell	Jan. 4, 1894
A. G. Copeland to Mary Burks	" 8
B. F. Crownover to Vienna Conley	" 14
T. A. Johnson to Alie Barton	" 21
Harrison Holland to Maggie E. Wheat	" 21
Benj. F. Stephens to Susan Clemens	" 22
W. S. Duke to Mary A. Ellis	" 25
J. E. Scot to Sarah Anglin	" 25
C. C. Cropper to Dovie Garner	" 28

John T. Duck to Mary F. Loman	Feb. 1
J. H. Hearn to Mellie L. Lucy	" 1
J. M. Cooper to Julia J. Payne	" 4
Silas E. Chapin to Milindy C. Mead	" 11
H. C. Watts to Isabelle Watkins	" 11
Wm. Montgomery to Mary Spangler	" 11
W. J. Honsinger to Mrs. Emeline Beard	" 11
R. W. Partee to Viola Harper	" 15
I. T. Rogers to Nanie Cunningham	" 15
F. G. Rouse to Katie McNeill	" 15
S. E. Collins to Malinda J. Talburt	" 22
Allen Horn to Maude Worton	" 24
Geo. Kimberling to Mary C. Shipley	March 1
Isaac Davis to Mary E. Williams	" 4
J. I. Trimble to Adah Milliner	" 4
J. P. Forister to Sallie Small	" 11
M. R. Pryor to Nellie Gaither	" 11
John F. Smith to Addie M. Mabrey	" 14
J. W. Covington to Eller Taylor	" 16
A. J. Newman to Minnie E. Hornbuckle	" 16
G. B. Dunham to V. B. Hudson	" 20
J. A. Casey to Mrs. Caldonia Talburt	" 25
Dolphus Edwards to Ada B. Smith	" 25
E. A. Huelsenbeck to Lucinda Williams	April 1
Joseph M. House to Mary G. Carriers	" 1
L. S. Fleming to L. J. Spangler	" 10
J. N. Tracy to Lula Deaton	" 29

R.I.P.

TENTH IN A SERIES OF ARTICLES ON CEMETERIES IN
BAXTER COUNTY - "THE HART CEMETERY"
BY D. GARVIN CARROLL

This cemetery is located off Highway 5 South, about four and one half miles out of Mountain Home, on old Highway No. 5.

NAME	BORN	DIED
Bessie May Baker (wife)	1900	1957
Lewis L. Baker (husband)	1891	1960
Arghie Bethel	NO DATES	
Fulerton-Infant son of Martha A.	April 12, 1891	SAME
Sarah A. Goforth (wife)	March 6, 1837	Nov. 29, 1917
Thomas B. Goforth (husband)	Aug. 31, 1823	Aug. 9, 1907
Harrison H. Holland	1868	1939
Maggie F. Holland	1878	1936
R. Huff	1884	
Juanita M. King	Jan. 11, 1917	Jan. 21, 1917
William Martin (husband of Isabella A. Savage)	Oct. 26, 1840	Aug. 13, 1876
Betty McCormack (wife)	Aug. 17, 1871	Feb. 17, 1944
Campbell Alonzo McCormack (husb)	Dec. 25, 1872	Jan. 21, 1953
Charlie McCormack	NO DATES	
Edith McCormack (daughter of C.A. and Betty)	Sept. 17, 1901	Feb. 1916
Vey McCormack (son of C.A. & Betty)	July 6, 1896	Sept. 26, 1896
Callie B. Raymond	1858	1931
Henry C. Raymond	1849	1897
Rosie F. Raymond	NO DATES	
Vinnie Elzy Raymond	Aug. 25, 1896	Aug. 4, 1897
Elvira Robinson	Aug. 10, 1846	Feb. 7, 1906
W. R. Robertson	Dec. 21, 1840	Sept. 20, 1921
Willie W. Robertson (son of O.W. and M.A.)	Dec. 2, 1873	Feb. 15, 1874
J. H. Sales	NO DATES	
Elizabeth R. Travis	Aug. 9, 1838	April 13, 1878
Henry R. Waldrop	Oct. 29, 1869	Jan. 3, 1958
Annie B. Ward	Nov. 27, 1855	July 29, 1922
Hugh C. Watson	Age 27 years	June 25, 1873
Mary A. Watson	1843	1873
UNKNOWN BABY - Initials T.B.G.	NO DATES	

I ASSUME NO RESPONSIBILITY FOR ERROR IN NAME OR DATES. THESE HAVE BEEN COPIED FROM STONES AND ARE VERY DIFFICULT TO READ ON SOME STONES.

GENEALOGY.....Don Hubbell

The following information was taken from the Dihel family history as compiled by Harold Dihel LaMar and later updated by Robert Dihel McNew. There is a great deal more information available than I have given here, but I have taken only that portion that relates to Baxter County.

Several Dihel (also spelled Diel and Diehl) families came to this country from Germany and Rotterdam between the years of 1688 and 1741. It is generally believed that George Dihel is a decendent of one of the families from Rotterdam that settled in Northhampton County, Penn.

George Dihel		Rosina Hoffman
b. 1750 Pennsylvania	married	b. 1753
d. 1822 Philidelphia, Penn.		d. no information

To this marriage were born the following children: George, Sussanah, Ann, Samual, and Elizabeth.

Samual Dihel was born in 1782 in Bristol, of Buck County, Penn. He died in 1840 in Virginia. He married Nancy McDonald of Scotland in 1810. Nancy died in 1820 after ten years of marriage and nine children. The children were: John Wesley, Daniel, Samual M., William F., Jane, George W., Nancy, Catherine, and Sussanah.

Daniel Dihel of the above children moved to Arkansas and started the Dihel family in Baxter County. An exact date of his arrival in Baxter County is not known, but he is listed in the 1880 census of Baxter County and the Polk Business Directory for 1884 lists him as owner of a flour mill. This mill was located in what is variously known locally as Mill Holler, Mill Bluff, and Mill Dam Holler. Ruins of the old mill could still be seen up until the last few years.

Daniel Dihel was a medical doctor, but according to the family he gave up his practice upon his arrival in Baxter County in order to farm and engage in business.

Daniel Dihel	married	Nancy Egner
b. Feb. 5, 1815 Virginia		b. Feb. 5, 1822
d. May 5, 1885		d. April 28, 1870

To this marriage nine children were born.

1. Sussie E. b. Oct. 4, 1844 Married Alfred Marsh-had four children.
2. James Allen b. July 26, 1844 Dates of one and two are obviously incorrect as she could not have had two children four months apart.
3. Mary Margaret b. Aug. 6, 1848 d. Oct. 21, 1862
4. Nancy F. K. b. March 16, 1861 no children
5. George W. b. Dec. 10, 1854 d. June 5, 1879 Married Mary Williams.
6. Daniel Webster b. Oct. 21, 1862 d. Aug. 31, 1870
7. Sarrah Virginia b. Sept. 6, 1865 Had three children.
8. Lucy Ann b. July 20, 1867 d. Feb. 14, 1909
9. Lueda Emiline b. Sept. 16, 1869 d. Sept. 24, 1873 Married a man by the name of Wise. They had five children. (Date of her death is obviously incorrect).

Daniel Dihel-Second Marriage

Daniel Dihel

Married about 1871

Nancy Emaline McCay

b. Feb. 1839

d. April 2, 1890

1. Amanda Jeslin b. Jan. 3, 1873
2. John Wesley b. Aug. 14, 1874
3. Hila Carline b. Oct. 5, 1881
4. Samuel A. b. March 25, 1882
5. Joseph Franklin b. Jan. 11, 1884

George W. Dihel

married

Mary Williams

son of Daniel Dihel and Nancy Egner

The children of this marriage were:

1. James Married Molly Clinkingbeard. They had one son, William Kilen who married Minnie Hardcastle. Their children were Marlene, Robert, Marie, Marge, Joe, and twins Mat and Pat.
2. Hannah Married Arah Britt. Their children were: Allen, Adam, Noah, and Nelly. Noah Britt married Mary G. and their children are Dolores, Wanda, and Mazie.
3. John Richard Married Estel Jeter. Their children were George, Fred, Ray, and Odis. Also a girl whose name is missing.

Lucy Ann

Husband unknown or name not available.

daughter of Daniel Dihel and Nancy Egner

The children of this marriage were: Maud, Grover, Bertha, Myrtle, and Nolan.

John Wesley Dihel

married

Hannah Wells

son of Daniel Dihel

Jan. 10, 1897

b. March 30, 1872

and Nancy Emaline McCay

d. June 15, 1900

They had one daughter from this marriage.

1. Edith Elizabeth Dihel married

Balford Minge

John Wesley Dihel

second marriage June 22, 1903

Nancy Lee Hopkins

1. Myrtle G. b. April 19, 1904 Married Irvin Hoard. They had three children: Maxine, Elaine, and Eugene.
2. Franklin A. b. Nov. 24, 1905 d. Nov. 17, 1907
3. Sarrah Magalin b. Aug. 23, 1908 Married Alfred Marsh. They had four children: Alfred, Jr., Nancy Lee, Curtis, and Larry.
4. Jerry Wayne b. Dec. 25, 1909 Married Emma Anderson. They had three children: Lavern, Freida, and James.
5. Charles Noble b. April 7, 1918 Married Rosa Lee McGee. They had four children: Billy Eugene, Charles Edward, Anita Marsha, and Ruth Lorain.

An interesting sidelight to the above geneology is that the George W. Dihel mentioned in here applied for the job as post-master of Bennett Bayou in 1881. I have a document duly signed from the National Archives to that effect. However, according to the family bible he died in 1879. His wife Mary is listed as a widow in the 1880 census. Is it possible that his widow being in strained circumstances used his name to obtain a job to support herself?

John Wesley Dihel purchased 8 acres and the buildings thereon from George C. Scott, who homesteaded it in 1899. The home is still standing and is still in basically good repair. With just a little work, it would still be liveable. Later, John Dihel homesteaded an additional acreage to go with the 8 acres. His son Charles Noble and grandson, Charles Edward along with their families still own and live on a portion of the original homestead.

There are several errors in this geneology, as well as a good many omissions. However, I have copied it as correctly as possible including errors since I have no solid information for making corrections.

* * * * *

The following account of the Hunter Wilson Murder in 1893 does not differ greatly from other accounts of the murder, but it does differ somewhat in detail. This account is unique in that it was written by W. H. Wilson, the only son of Hunter Wilson. I am deeply grateful to Mrs. Carrie Talburt of Cumi, Arkansas for allowing me to copy her personalized story of the murder.....
Don Hubbell.

THE WILSON MURDER MYSTERY

North Arkansas and South Missouri still remember the famous

WILSON MURDER MYSTERY.

The greatest murder mystery of North Arkansas which stirred sections of two states and involved six men, who at various times appeared to be the guilty parties is still vividly recalled by the elder residents of North Arkansas and South Missouri.

It was on the night of December 18, 1893 about 7:30 P.M. that Hunter Wilson, a 52 year old farmer and stock man, living in the Northeast corner of Baxter County, Arkansas was killed and his 51 year old wife shot down in cold blood. A trunk containing \$2100 was taken from the house by two masked men.

Mrs. Wilson's statement.

We had eaten our supper and gone into the livingroom. Two masked men entered, pointed their guns at us and said, "Hands up"! My husband raised his hands and bade me do the same. The gun men advanced toward us and shot my husband. I ran into the kitchen and was trying to open the north door to call Bob Rogers, a tenant who lived about 125 yards from us when one of the robbers caught me by the hair and shot me in the left shoulder and neck. I rolled to the floor and under the dining table. While lying there I could hear my husband groaning and praying. When he hushed I knew he was dead. When the robbers left the house I crawled to the east door, got a drink of water then opened the door and fell out into the yard. I was too dizzy to stand up. I could smell cloth burning and knew something was on fire in the house. I began to crawl away from the house, got hold of a broomstick and using it as a brace, I got up. I started to Bob Rogers'

house, got within about 40 yards of his house and fainted. When I regained consciousness I could hear the horses in Rogers' yard snorting. Then I heard Rogers' voice. He was trying to quiet them and I called to him. He and his uncle helped me to his house and I begged Rogers to go to my house and see about the fire. The robbers asked no questions. They just shot us.

Bob Rogers' statement.

We had just eaten our supper when I heard my uncle's horses making a terrible noise in the yard. I went out to see what was wrong. Then I heard Mrs. Wilson's cry for help. When I got to her, I found her covered with blood all over and on her knees trying to get up. My uncle and I helped her up and got her to my house. I mounted a horse and went to a neighbor, Dow Bryant for help. Anderson Carter was there and both men went with me to my house. Mrs. Wilson begged us not to let the house burn down on her husband. Anderson Carter said it was dangerous to go without a gun, that he would go home and get his son and some guns. When he came back with Bart we started to enter the house. Bart was in front with a 38 S. and W. revolver. We got into the house and the trunk was gone. Wilson's body was lying on the floor in a flame of fire. A large hole was burned in the floor under his body, and Wilson's clothes were burned off. Two boys started to West Plains to telegraph for Wilson's son who was in college at Steelville, Missouri.

By daylight 200 excited and determined men had gathered at the Wilson Ranch. They began hunting for clues in all directions. The first clues found pointed to Bill McAninch and his nephew, Walter McAninch of Bakersfield, Mo. and an unknown man as the guilty parties.

Later clues were pointing to Anderson Carter and his son, Bart, living 3/4 mile east of the Wilson Ranch, and an unknown man as the guilty parties.

The first clue.

Early next morning a sale tag with 2 cost marks on it was found in the hallway of the Wilson house and was identified at C. Rosser's store at West Plains as belonging to a facinator. Also, a clerk recalled selling Bill McAninch 2 facinators on the morning of December 18th.

The second clue.

Dr. Black of South Fork stopped Wilson's son on his way home and told him he saw Bill McAninch and a stranger talking in a back alley in West Plains on the morning of December 18th. The stranger seemed to be very much excited and acted like he didn't want to be seen. He dodged behind something when anyone was passing.

Bill McAninch and his nephew left West Plains for home about 2 P.M. and got home about 6 P.M. About sundown that evening a stranger riding a bay horse was seen hesitating at the forks of the road one mile north of Bakersfield, Mo. He pulled his hat down over his eyes and rode back a short distance and inquired of Mr. Cunningham the road to McAninch's and went on that way.

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The third clue. 11:30 P.M. Dec. 18th

News of the murder reached Bakersfield, Mo. and Dr. Sullivan, a resident of Bakersfield went to tell Bill McAninch, a stock man and farmer, also a former partner of Wilson in the stock trading business about the murder.

He failed to arouse McAninch by loud "hellos" from the gate. He dismounted and started for the house, opening the wrong gate and got into the barn lot. There stood McAninch's saddle horse hot and covered with sweat foam. At 12 P.M. Dr. Sullivan went on to the house and aroused the McAninch family and told them about the murder. McAninch seemed to be confused and acted queer. He refused to go with Dr. Sullivan to the murder scene.

The fourth clue.

The two boys returning from West Plaines reported they saw suspicious horse tracks as they went on at the old Sappington house on the Jacksonport road, one mile north of the Wilson Ranch. A deputy sheriff and a boy were sent to investigate. They found tracks of two horses coming south to the old house. One went on south to the junction of Salem Road and turned east on Salem Road. The other horse turned back over the same trail and was followed to McAninch's barn lot. The returning horse was shod on three feet with flat shoes, but on one foot, the left hind foot was a shoe with high toe and cork. McAninch's saddle horse was shod this way. The man going east was a mystery.

The fifth clue.

Wilson and McAninch had formed a partnership in stock trading. In the agreement McAninch was not to drink anymore. When Wilson learned McAninch was drinking heavily he broke up the partnership. McAninch resented Wilson's action. While trying to settle some unfinished business McAninch said some hard words to Wilson.

The sixth clue. July 4, 1893

Wilson changed his money from a small trunk in which he had always kept his money to a larger trunk.

It was thought McAninch was the only person who knew of this change except Wilson's wife and son. As the robbers asked no questions about the money, it appeared they knew which trunk contained the money.

This fact caused suspicion against McAninch to become stronger. Bill McAninch and his nephew were arrested on Dec. 24 and put in jail at Mountain Home, Baxter County, Arkansas.

A 32 caliber Derringer pistol was taken off McAninch when arrested. The court ordered Wilson's body exhumed. A 38 caliber bullet was taken from his body. This created some doubt of McAninch's guilt.

The two McAninch's employed J. C. South to defend them. All the circumstantial evidence previously mentioned in the various clues were brought out at the preliminary trial.

J. C. South stated his clients were innocent but offered little evidence in their behalf. McAninch refused to give the name of the stranger he talked with at West Plains or who the stranger was that inquired of Mr. Cunningham the way to his house. He also refused to tell how his saddle horse happened to be ridden to the Sappington house the night of December 18, or why his horse was hot the night at 12 P.M. He stated he did not know Wilson had changed his money from the small trunk to the larger one.

On the last day of the trial, McAninch asked an interview with Wilson's son. After expressing sympathy, he said, "Billie, do you think I killed your father?" Billie said, "I don't know, but the evidence is against you." McAninch said, "I am innocent. Your father was one of my best friends and I am ready to help you find the guilty parties." Then he asked, "What do you think about Anderson Carter and his son, Bart?" Billie replied, "Clues and suspicions are growing hard against them." With these frank statements and clues pointing to the two Carters, a doubt of McAninch's guilt began to form in the peoples minds. The Court held Bill McAninch but released his nephew.

Clues against the Carters.

In the meantime other clues were found pointing to Anderson Carter and his son, Bart, and this unknown man.

First clue.

About 8:30 A.M. the morning after the murder, the wrecked trunk was found in Wilson's field $\frac{1}{4}$ mile from the house, the money gone. There was blood all over the trunk and contents. The tracks of the two robbers were measured and followed to the South fence. There two fresh fired 38 caliber pistol shells were found. From the south fence the robbers went east and were tracked to one half mile of Anderson Carter's house and lost the tracks. The tracks of the robbers were too large for Bart Carter and Anderson Carter had a perfect alibi. Neither of the McAninch or the Carters had a cut hand. The man with a cut hand was a mystery.

Second clue.

The morning after the murder suspicious horse tracks identified as made by a mare called "Marth" owned by Anderson Carter was found going from Salem Road to Anderson Carter's barn, returning to Salem Road. They were followed three miles and lost. Anderson Carter said the mare had been ridden to the Post Office the evening of the 18th. Later it was learned that the mare "Marth" was not at Carter's farm and had not been seen for a month. Where was "Marth" was a mystery.

Third clue.

The men who entered the house with Bart Carter to extinguish the fire recalled that Bart Carter had a 38 S. and W. revolver and also remembered that a 38 caliber bullet was taken from Wilson's body.

Fourth clue.

The third day after the murder Bart Carter was missing. His father stated that he was gone to Viola to get two horses shod. Investigation showed that he was not in Viola that day. No horses were shod for him at Viola, and also that he left home some time after midnight and did not return home until after dark the next night.

Fifth clue.

Anderson Carter, a state's witness in the McAninch case got very angry when McAninch's attorney measured his boots and showed the court that his boot was the exact size of one of the robbers tracks at the wrecked trunk.

Shortly after Anderson Carter and his son, Bart went voluntarily to Mountain Home and asked the court to give them a trial so they could prove their innocence. The court told them to wait until the McAninch trial was over and he might give them one.

A few days after the McAninch trial closed, Tom Brown, a stock man living near Moody, Mo. was on his way to Moody to get his mail. As he passed by Tom Collins house, his wife, Mrs. Lizz Collins, hailed him and asked how the McAninch trial went. Brown said they were being held in jail, that they were guilty and would hang. Mrs. Collins said not to be too sure. Brown, thinking over her statement, decided she knew something. On his way home he stopped at her house. After getting her to drink something, he said, "Lizz, what did you mean when you said not to be too sure about McAninch's guilt?" "Oh, you might be mistaken," she said. Brown looked at her a few minutes and said, "Lizz, you know something. You should tell it." She hesitated a few minutes and said "Its death for me to talk." After Brown promised her protection she told him the story which began to unfold the mysteries of the Wilson Murder Case.

She stated Anderson Carter, her uncle and his son, Bart and Jasper Newton, her brother-in-law were the guilty parties. She stated Bart Carter and Newton did the killing and Newton cut his hand wrecking the trunk and that his hand was still sore. Newton borrowed Carter's mare "Marth" and rode her to Carter's the night before the murder, stayed all day of December 18th hidden in Carter's barn. That night after the murder had ridden north to his home. She further stated the third day after the murder, Bart came to Newton's in the night, pulled the shoes off the mare and had hidden her in a thicket in Newton's field. Anderson Carter went to Bryant's so he could have an alibi. Some of this information she knew herself and the other she got from her sister, Mrs. Newton.

For Mrs. Collins' protection this was kept a secret for two weeks. After more evidence was obtained, warrants were sent to Fulton County to the sheriff.

A deputy was sent to watch Carter's while the sheriff and two deputies went to get Newton. After arresting Newton, he was taken to Vidette, Arkansas and left under guard. The sheriff and one deputy went on to Carter's and arrested the two Carters.

Anderson Carter, thinking this was the trial promised by the court, boasted all the way to Vidette, "Now, I can show my enemies that I am innocent". When he saw Newton, his boasting stopped and his face turned white. He could hardly talk, and his knees trembled. He, then, realized what he was up against.

It was now night and the sheriff knew if he started to Mountain Home or remained at Vidette that night, a mob would take the prisoners away from him. He took them out into the woods and hid them in a gulch all night.

Next morning the three culprits were taken to Mountain Home and put in jail. News of their coming preceded them. While passing Oakland, Mrs. Claud Stone took a good look at the man called Newton. That night she described him to her husband. By daylight Claud Stone was at the jail door and asked the sheriff to let him see the jailbirds. When the door opened, the man called Newton had his back to the door. Stone said, "Bud Montgomery, turn around." Newton turned and looked at Stone and after some talk admitted his name was Bud Montgomery. Stone told the sheriff his name was Jasper Newton Montgomery and had known him in Clay County, Arkansas, as Bud Montgomery. Stone stated that Montgomery was one of the worst outlaws he knew, that he was the leader of one of the outlaw gangs of Clay County. He had killed several persons and he, Stone had helped to arrest him for several murders in Clay County, and he had escaped from the Clay County Jail several years before.

Stone warned the sheriff he had better keep him chained. That evening the sheriff started to enter the jail and the inside door would not open. He motioned four guards to the door, then called to Anderson Carter to let the door open. When the door opened, Carter was on one side, Newton on the other side, each with a stick of wood drawn ready to strike. When they saw the guards with their guns drawn, they dropped their clubs. The sheriff had them chained at once and they remained chained. Their intention was to kill the sheriff and escape.

The night after the Carters and Newton were arrested, Tom Brown, Lizz Collins and Mrs. Newton came to Dow Bryant's home and sent for Mrs. Anderson Carter. She refused to talk at first but after hearing Mrs. Lizz Collins statement and Tom Brown promised her he would help her save her son, Bart, from a mob, then she told her story.

Mrs. Carter's statement corroborated Mrs. Collins' statement and further stated that at supper the night of Dec. 18th, her son, Bart, complained of being sick and said he was going to bed and went to his room. Mr. Carter said he was going to a turkey hunting with Dow Bryant and left. Mrs. Carter went to her son's room and found he was gone. She knew they were up to something, but didn't

know what. In about two hours Bart came in the front door and had on a different pair of pants and his father's shoes.

In a few minutes Anderson Carter came running in all excited and said someone had killed Hunter Wilson and shot his wife. They ran to the barn, caught their horses and left in a run for Wilson's ranch.

Mrs. Carter knew then her husband and son were guilty.

The following night Bart, was taken out of jail and questioned. After he saw his mother and Lizz Collins' statements he broke down and confessed that he and Newton had killed Wilson, stole his money and stated his father, Anderson, Newton and himself had been plotting a robbery for a year. They had set two previous nights to do the job but each night some one came to stay the night with them. He played sick to fool his mother. As he wore a smaller shoe than his father, he thought by wearing his father's shoes he wouldn't be suspected. He further stated that he joined Newton at the barn at 7:00 P.M. They started for Hunter Wilson's ranch and reached there at 7:30, killed Wilson, shot his wife and took the trunk down into Wilson's field. There they wrecked it, got the money and started home. At the south fence they threw out their pistol shells, hid the money under a large white rock on a rock wall in their field. Newton took his share and they reburied the remainder. Bart further stated that his father had learned from McAninch where Wilson kept his money. He said he tried to back out and begged his father not to rob Wilson. His father threatened to kill him if he backed out. He told Newton at the barn in Bart's presence to kill him if he didn't do his part.

Next morning after Bart confessed, he was taken home. He dug up \$720 of the money and said he didn't know what his father had done with the remainder.

The guilt was now established.

That evening about 3:30 armed men began gathering at Oakland Church 2½ miles east of Mountain Home. While the mob was organizing, a man who had ridden bareback on a mule 30 miles walked into the church house and asked if he had found the men who were going to kill Carter and Newton. The leader told him he had and the man said he would like the pleasure of blowing Carter's light. The leader asked who wanted the pleasure of blowing Newton's light and one was picked from the volunteers. These two men were given numbers 83 and "C".

Shortly after dark 200 or more men silently rode to the edge of town, dismounted, formed in line two abreast, and marched to the jail. They formed a cordon around the jail and disarmed the guards. They forced the sheriff to give up the jail keys and furnished a reflecting light. The news of the mob coming had preceded them and 2000 people were on the square and streets that night.

The jail door was thrown open. Carter and Newton were lying on a mattress on the floor in front of the door. They sat up and begged for their lives. They said, "We are innocent. If you aim to kill us, unchain us and we will stand against the back wall and die like men."

The mob leader said, "Wilson didn't get to pick his way or time to die, neither will you men." Attorney J. C. South got up on a box to make a stump speech. Guns were thrown into his face and he hushed. At a signal from the leader 30 or 40 shots were fired into the jail door. Carter and Newton fell back. Carter begged for water. The leader said, "Wilson might have wanted water when he was dying but you didn't give him any. South took water to Carter but he was dying and said to Newton, "Man tell the truth. Don't die with a lie in your mouth." Newton said, "I never killed Wilson."

The leader called No. C a masked man, who entered the jail with a 44 Winchester and shot Anderson Carter in the head. No. 83 was called. Another masked man entered the jail and shot Newton in the head. The mob walked quietly away.

Next morning after an inquest Carter and Newton's bodies were put in a boot crate and buried in the pauper's graveyard.

Two hours after the execution officers returned to Mountain Home with Bart Carter. The following morning he was taken into habeas corpus court brought to release Bill McAninch. He swore the \$720 was a part of the money taken from Wilson and that he and Newton killed Wilson and that McAninch was innocent.

Nothing was said about the circumstantial evidence against McAninch at this time. Later J. C. South gave a full explanation.

Bart Carter was indicted for murder in the first degree. His trial was to come up in September.

Before the Bart Carter trial came up, J. C. South, McAninch's attorney gave the following account of the mysteries in the McAninch case. The tag was probably dropped by a man named Phillips. The stranger seen talking to McAninch in West Plains was a boyhood friend of McAninch who had killed a man in cold blood in North Missouri. They met at a feed barn in West Plains and recognized each other. He begged McAninch to help him elude the officers, so McAninch sent him in a round about way to his home. The man thought he had missed the way and inquired of Mr. Cunningham the way to McAninch's house.

The night of December 18th McAninch rode his saddle horse to guide his friend to the Sappington house on Jacksonport Road and had just returned home when Dr. Sullivan called to tell him Wilson had been murdered. Aiding his friend to elude the officers was murder in second degree with a penalty of 21 years in the Missouri pen.

That is why McAninch would not give any information about the mysteries in his case.

THE BART CARTER TRIAL

The state attorney offered clemency to Bart if he would plead guilty and would accept ten years in the pen. Bart Carter's attorney refused and announced ready for trial. A jury was chosen from 134 men. The hardest fought murder trial of North Arkansas was on.

Bart Carter repudiated his confession and swore he was scared of a mob and swore that every previous statement was false. His mother changed her statement and swore he was sick in bed the night of Dec. 18th until his father came and told them that Wilson had been killed.

The attorneys for Carter refused to accept any kind of instruction except the iron clad instruction for murder in the first degree with the death penalty. The trial lasted ten days. The jury returned a verdict of guilty of murder in the first degree with the death penalty. All motions for a new trial were overruled. The court refused the request of Wilson's son to send Carter to State Walls for safekeeping until the supreme court passed on the case. Bart Carter's relatives and friends made a deal with the sheriff to get him out of jail. Bart Carter broke custody and was never caught. The supreme court upheld the verdict of the lower court.

So ended the great murder myster of North Arkansas.

Written by W. H. Wilson, now 81 years old, and the only son of Hunter Wilson.