

# Baxter County History



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

Photo courtesy of Ray Grass

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# THE BAXTER COUNTY HISTORY

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BAXTER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
Mountain Home, Arkansas

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

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

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

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

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

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



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In 1819 an Act of Congress formally established the Territory of Arkansaw. It was William Woodruff, a Long Island printer, who rebelled against the word Arkansaw. He set up a newspaper press in Arkansaw and reprinted the Act of Congress, changing the name of the new territory to Arkansas. The population of the territory was only about 10,000, and a great many could not spell, anyway, so Woodruff's version was immediately accepted. Nevertheless, confusion followed, particularly in Kansas and Arkansas City. To this day, although Webster says it should be pronounced "Arkanso" and many Kansas people have their own idea, most people prefer the original form of pronunciation, "Arkansaw".

\* \* \* \* \*

Early newspapers were folded into four pages, but consisted of one sheet. This was somewhat for convenience, but primarily because the postal laws demanded extra postage for each extra sheet of paper. Before envelopes came into use, letters, for instance, were written on single sheets, folded over and sealed, and sent for one stamp. A letter of two pages would legally require double postage, and newspapers were dealt with in the same manner. A few publishers came out with "bedsheet papers" that were nearly twice ordinary size; when unfolded, they were the size of a full bedsheet.

-American Yesterday, Eric Sloane

"My education was restricted to a few terms at subscription schools and two full-year terms at Mountain Home Academy. With the exception of schoolbooks and the Bibles there was little to read in the Leatherwoods. The Swans (my uncle and aunt) did not subscribe to any newspaper, and I did not see one until I was nearly fourteen years old - the Boston Globe, in the year 1878. There was no local newspaper, and no one in the Leatherwoods felt the need of reading metropolitan papers. Once a month when we got Farm and Home in the Saturday mail, we all read it through, word by word, advertisements and all, and when we reached the end we read it through again. But it could not be called an educational magazine. In 1879, when I was nearing fifteen, I saw for the first time a copy of the Youth's Companion, and in 1882 the New York Ledger."

-Life in the Leatherwoods, John Quincy Wolf

"My father made no special effort to record folklore as such. In fact, he was disinclined in his accounts of life in the Leatherwoods to attempt any use of certain kinds of it, for example, backwoods dialect. He felt, mistakenly perhaps, that to put into the mouths of his Leatherwoods friends expressions chosen solely for their quaintness might be a kind of belittlement, however mild, or might at least set his old friends apart as a rather odd breed of people. He had been so much a part of mountain life that not many idioms seemed noteworthy to him."

- John Quincy Wolf, Jr.



PROGRESS OF THE BAXTER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
Hazen Bonow, Historian

March 2nd, 1982

Quinby Smith, program chairman, led an informal discussion of games played by children fifty or more years ago.

Many games were mentioned and discussed which brought back happy memories. Everyone joined in on what they could remember but most could not think of the details or rules. Quinby asked and assigned different games to members to write up for future use in our Baxter County publications with a probable title, "Do You Remember?" In this way a permanent record would be made which otherwise could easily be forgotten in the future.

Everyone seemed very interested and this program proved to be one of our most enjoyable.

April 6th, 1982

"Modes of Transportation of Yesteryear" was the subject of our April meeting.

Howard Knight showed 40 excellent slides of antique cars made from 1903 to 1931. The slides were made at the Mississippi Antique Car Club Show.

There were some happy memories seeing these cars. There were over 30 different makes and several surprising ones, such as the Maytag and Sears.

Some members brought pictures and information on old cars, street cars and railroads. Also interesting were the stories of some of the experiences by our members.

This informal meeting was both knowledgeable and excellent entertainment.

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GIFT TO THE SOCIETY

Margie E. Wilhm of the "Ox Yoke" on Rt. 62 NE has given the Society ten copies of The IZARD County Historian. These included Vol. 1 of 1970.

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HELP!!!

Your Editors need your memories of places (many of which have disappeared), persons, olden things and doings.

Please let others know what happened and how things were in the past.

These may be in longhand, typewritten, or on tape. If you have photographs that will show what you are writing about, they will help. All your material will be returned to you.



PHOTOGRAPHS

Baseball Team of Buford, Arkansas

Exact date of picture is uncertain but approximately 1912 to 1914

Front Row from left to right

1. Oscar Bagwell

2. Willie Carter

Second Row from left to right

3. Ernest Nelson

4. and 5. Mennis and Dennis Anderson (cousins)  
not sure which is which

Third Row from left to right

6. Unknown

7. Roy Pitchford

8. Newt Eubank

9. Fred Pitchford

10. Joe Mace

- - - - -

100 Merits to Don London

December 22, 1905 by Teacher, Margaret Thomas, at Shady Grove

Diploma to Don London, February 9, 1906







This shows that

# THE BEARER HAS EARNED ONE HUNDRED MERITS

LET US NOT WEARY IN WELL DOING. FOR IN DUE SEASON WE SHALL REAP

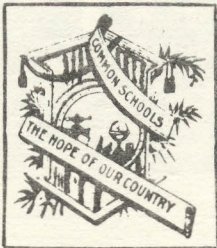
To *Don London*

*Dec 22* 190*5* BY *Margaret Thomas*  
TEACHER

"EDUCATION AND LIBERTY INSEPARABLE"

"NOTHING DIFFICULT TO HIM WHO WILLS."

"LABOR CONQUERS ALL THINGS."



"PALMA NON SINE PULVERE."

Be it known, That *Don London* is held in high esteem by his teacher for Constant Attendance and Good Deportment during Term just finished, and is entitled to this

## DIPLOMA

Given at *Shady Grove* this *9* day of *Feb* 190*6*  
*Margaret Thomas* Teacher.



## SEVENTEENTH IN A SERIES ON CEMETERIES

## IN BAXTER COUNTY, ARKANSAS

By D. G. Carroll

CASTEEL CEMETERY

Located South and across the White River from Mountain Home, Arkansas in the Ozark National Forest on Forest Service Road, near the South West corner of Baxter County.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Born</u>	<u>Died</u>
<u>ACKLIN</u>		
Martin L.	5- ? - 1912	June 26, 1923
Minnie E.	Nov. 28, 1888	Sept. 10, 1925
"MOTHER AND SON"		
<u>CASTEEL</u>		
Leonard	Mar. 27, 1895	Apr. 16, 1971
"HUSBAND OF LYDIA E. CASTEEL"		
<u>CASTEEL</u>		
Lydia E.	Feb. 9, 1896	Feb. 27, 1920
"WIFE OF LEONARD CASTEEL"		
<u>JEFRESS</u>		
Oscar	May 23, 1890	Feb. 14, 1912
"SON OF T. D. AND F. A. JEFRESS, AGE 21 YEARS, 8 MONTHS, AND 23 DAYS"		
Written on back of stone:		
"A precious one fr. us is gone		
A voice we loved is stilled		
A place is vacant in our home		
Which never can be filled"		

## OTHER GRAVES WITH NO MARKINGS, NUMBER UNKNOWN

"Our forefathers accepted death as much a part of life as birth. If you have visited any of our cemeteries you know that the burial places were not chosen merely for convenience - or because the land was unsuitable for cultivation. The graveyards are invariably located in places of beauty. Every spring splashes of jonquil, bridal wreath, bleeding hearts, lilac and old-fashioned roses (yellow, pink, white, wine and red - varieties and shades seldome seen outside a cemetery today) bloom in all their unrestrained beauty.

In the days before power mowers, the graveyard workings were held once a year. The weeds and grass were cut with a weed hook and the graves were scraped clean and mounded up (to look like they thought a grave ought to look). Sometimes graves would be covered, or outlined with mussel shells, or decorated with pieces of colored glass or broken dishes. On Decoration Day gay handmade crepe paper flowers, dipped in paraffin, would be placed on the mounds."

- A History of Baxter County, Mary Ann Messick 1973



RECORD OF APPOINTMENT OF POSTMASTERS IN BAXTER COUNTY

This record taken from microfilm shows the date of establishment and discontinuance of post offices, their changes of names, and the names of and the appointment dates of their postmasters.

## Abbreviations used:

Dis. or Disc. Discontinued

Reest. Reestablished

Res. Rescinded. An order of the Postmaster General establishing or discontinuing a postmaster was later withdrawn.

Roll #6. Baxter County, Volume 25B. Ca. 1857-75

Big Flat Grum H. Norman 5 June '73. Disc. 22 May '74

Bennett's Bayou J. M. Flutz 1 July '74

Egypt Joseph M. Wolf 12 Aug. '74

Volume 40. Ca. 1874-83

Bennett's Bayou J. M. Flutz 1 July, '74  
 John Sparks 25 March, '78  
 William H. Hoffman 7 May, '78  
 Moses Sample 15 Nov. '78  
 H. Flutz 10 Sept. '79 DISC.

Egypt Joseph M. Wolf 12 Aug. '74. DISC. 13 Sept. '76

Whiteville (Late in Marion County) Mrs. Mary J. Williams 29 Nov. '66  
 DISC. 22 Dec. '79

Big North Fork (Late in Marion County. Name changed) James M. Mattox 15 Jun '71  
 Stephen P. Pierce 23 Sept. '78  
 Name changed to Glenwood 10 April '79

Big Pond (Late in Marion County) Ephraim McLimnac 15 May '72  
 Thomas J. Travis 5 July '76 DISC. 2 Nov. '76.  
 REEST. 22 June '77

Jacob Gibson 27 June '77  
 Henry C. Raymond Mar. 25, '79. DISC. 10 July /79

Mountain Home Eli C. Jones 6 Oct. '70  
 John M. Casey 3 Jan. '76  
 James M. Wolf 5 June '77  
 James H. T. Wallis 7 May '78  
 Joseph H. Case 7 Nov. '78

Iuka Thompson H. Wayland 26 July '76

Table Rock Thomas Morton 22 Nov. '77 (in Stone County)



Gassville Tinkney A. Cox 1 Apr. '78  
Glenwood Joseph M. Meattox 10 Apr. '79 DISC. 12 Sept. '77  
Lone Rock John A. Cockrum 22 July '79  
Big Flat John T. Baker 11 Aug. '79  
Johnston E. Bell 23 May '82  
Buford Geo. W. Airsburn 26 Nov. '79  
Henderson James H. Cox 2 Feb. '80  
Archibald C. Anderson 11 Aug. '80 DISC. 11 Apr. '81  
REEEST. 28 Aug. '82  
John E. Jordan 28 Aug. '82  
Brooklyn Wm. B. Jones 9 June '80 DISC. 27 Apr. '81  
Gatherville John F. Gaither 7 Mar. '81  
Bennetts George W. Diehle 17 Aug. '81  
Andrew J. Brewer 29 Sept. '87  
Sarah E. Moresbry 26 Apr. '83  
Sarah E. Mabery 28 May '83

Volume 56. Ca. 1881-92

Bennett's Bayou DISC.

Big Flat Johnston E. Bell 23 May '83  
George W. Selph 14 Nov. '84  
Johnston E. Bell 26 Jan. '87  
Ananias S. Kelly 8 Nov. '89

Brooklyn DISC.

Buford George W. Airsburn 26 Nov. '79  
A. Y. Barnett 31 Mar. '81  
William Nelson 15 Sept. '84  
James B. Harper 2 Feb. '87  
George N. Nelson 7 Mar. '90

Gassville Pinkney A. Cox 1 Apr. '78  
Jos. N. Curlee 13 Nov. '90

Henderson Jno. E. Jordan 28 Aug. '82  
John N. Lynch 12 Sept. '88  
Wm. J. Smith 25 Oct. '89  
Thos. J. Rice 19 Dec. '89

(CHGD TO) Iuka Thompson H. Wayland 26 July '76 CHANGED TO IZARD COUNTY 8 Dec. '87

Lone Rock (CHGD. Late Eller) John A. Cockrum 22 July '79  
John H. Ramey 22 Apr. '86  
John J. Stewart 27 Apr. '86. CHGD. 11 Dec. '86



Mountain Home Jos. H. Case 7 Nov. '78  
John S. Russell 1 Sept. '85  
John W. Due 13 Dec. '90

Gaitherville Jno. T. Gaither 7 Mar. '81  
Thos. P. McWherter 10 Mar. '84. DISC. Moved to Lone Rock 4 May '86

Bennetts Sarah E. Mabary 28 May '83

Beall Zachariah F. Bean 5 Apr. '83  
Richard H. Beall 3 Mar. '84  
Joseph D. Morris 4 Mar. '86  
George H. Morris 27 Dec. '86. DISC. Moved to Bakersfield, Missouri 19 May '87

Bagdad John T. Hargrave 1 Apr. '84  
Walter P. Hargrave 10 Mar. '86, DISC Mail to Mtn. Home 13 Aug. '87

Amos John N. Trimble 20 May '84

Sneed Thomas Morton 30 June '84. Papers to Gaitherville 18 Sept. '84

Lone Rock (Late Eller) John T. Stewart 11 Dec. '86. CHGD name to Lone Rock  
23 Aug. '89  
John A. Cockrum 23 Aug. '89  
Dan'l W. Crownover 16 Aug. '92

Independence Robert W. Bussey 1 Mar. '88  
Thos. W. Hamilton 21 June '89  
Barblett S. Duke 18 Nov. '89

North Fork Russel Brewer 1 Mar. '88. DISC. Papers to Mtn. Home 8 Nov. '89  
Reestablished Jacob H. Wolf 21 Apr. '91. DISC. Papers to  
Mtn. Home 18 Oct. '92

Morton Thomas Morton 6 Mar. '88. CHGD to McPherson 17 July '88  
Thomas Morton 17 July '88

McPherson William H. Baumgardner 16 Dec. '92  
Blassongame H. Blount 21 Sept. '89

City Rock Joseph W. Emmett 4 Aug. '88. DISC. No Papers 13 Dec. '88

Lance John A. J. Perry 12 Aug. '89 (no papers) 26 Mar. '90

Wake John M. Mises 18 Nov. '90

Culp Joseph W. Emmett 9 Apr. '91

Pembina Thos. J. Dilbeck 7 Oct. '91

Winnerva Arthur Joachimi 21 July '92

Alliance Oliver M. Dickerson 4 Sept. '92



Volume 98. Ca. 1892-1930

Alliance Oliver M. Dickerson 4 Sept. '92. Papers to Mtn. Home 10 Oct. '96

Amos John N. Trimble 20 May '84  
Allen C. Trimble 25 Mar. 1909  
Theodore Bryant 6 Dec. 1911  
Mrs. Martin E. Bryant 13 Mar. 1913  
Floyd E. Sorrells 31 Jan. 1920  
Minnie Crownover 3 Jan. 1921  
Mrs. Una J. Manes 8 Apr. 1930

Bennetts Sarah C. Mabery 28 May '83  
Charles Hughes 10 Jan. '98. Mail yo Gamaliel 15 Apr. 1913

Big Flat Ananias S. Kelly 8 Nov. '89  
Jasper N. Treat 15 Nov. '93  
George W. Selph 23 Sept. '95  
Ananias S. Kelly 28 Jan. '98  
Stanley H. McMahan 5 Sept. 1917  
Fred L. Long 21 Feb. 1921  
Lida E. Phelps 3 Nov. 1921

Buford Geo. N. Nelson 7 Mar. '90  
James C. Hopper 31 Mar. 1921

Culp Jos. W. Emmitt 9 Apr. '91  
James R. Wright 21 Aug. '97  
Anna J. Webb 8 Jan. '98  
Minnie B. Rouse 11 July '99. Declined.  
Dollie Rouse 17 Dec. 1901  
George E. Martin 20 Feb. 1902  
Jerry A. Massey 21 Apr. 1904  
William C, Norman 29 Nov. 1904. Declined.  
Joseph W. Emmitt 30 Jan. 1905  
Edgar W. Emmitt 14 Mar. 1914

Gassville Jos. N. Curlee 13 Nov. '90  
Stephen E. Denton 24 July '94  
Lorenys D. Toney 15 June '98  
Charles E. Talley 13 Oct. 1902  
Henry C. Browning 24 Jan. 1904  
John W. Barnett 10 Oct. 1907  
Miss Stella K. Coffee 19 Dec. 1913

Henderson Thos. J. Rice 19 Dec. '89  
Sallie P. Lynch 21 Feb. '94  
Asa Brown 29 Aug. '98  
Mattie Brown 5 May 1903  
Robt. S. Hurst 24 Feb. 1911  
Bessie Parks 28 Aug. 1912  
James S. Brown 30 Dec. 1918  
Leffel J. Smith 6 Oct. 1924  
Edwin W. Harris 6 Dec. 1924  
Mrs. Cora Payne 5 Oct. 1925  
Leffel J. Smith 24 Nov. 1925



Independence Dan'l W. Crownover 16 Aug. '92  
J. W. Reynolds 1 Aug. '93  
Henry J. Dilbeck 14 Oct. '93  
N. O. Dilbeck 6 Apr. '96  
John W. Reynolds 15 May '96  
John A. Messick 28 Sept. '97  
Noah O. Dilbeck 5 Mar. 1904  
Mail to Gassville effective 30 Sept. 1908

Lone Rock John A. Cockrum 23 Aug. '89  
Jordan F. Kirkland 9 May '93. RESCINDED by Mrs. Maxwell 1894.  
Now Lonerock (by order of P. M. G.) Jan. '96  
Jordan F. Kirkland 19 May '93  
Azariah T. Cockrum 6 May '97  
Wm. B. Finley 8 Jan. 1901  
Thomas H. Cockrum 4 Dec. 1901  
Pearl L. Cockrum 13 June 1910

McPhearson Blassongame H. Blount 21 Sept. '89  
Wm. H. Baumgardner 16 Dec. '92. RESCINDED 14 Feb. '93  
Seaburn A. Jones 5 Aug. '96  
Edward Tucker 28 Jan. '98  
Meattie Jones 26 Apr. '98  
B. H. Blount 17 May 1901. Declined.  
Sarah E. Mabrey 17 June 1901  
Sidney C. Matthew 6 June 1905  
Anderson T. Cypert 7 Jan. 1901  
Mary S. Cypert 20 Sept. 1913



HISTORY OF CLOTHES "PEN" DOLLS

By Esta M. Taylor

Dolls, toys and other "amusers" were the order of the day when cousins gathered at "Granny's" house. The favorite gathering place was a rustic table and bench (or the mossy sod) under the grape arbor.

Here "Granny" taught us to make items from scraps or natural materials to amuse ourselves. (No store bought toys for us).

One treasure was the clothes pen doll. Granny made her own clothes "pens" from a finger-sized branch by splitting a crotch in it with her knife, binding the end of the split with a stout vine and cutting to clothes pen length. When showing us how to make a doll, she shaved a face-sized piece of bark from the head of the "clothes pen". Then using berry juices and a sharp pointed stick, we would put features on the face. Cattail or sycamore ball "fuzz" did for the hair, and fabric for clothing came from Granny's rag bag. Usually these were pieces not suitable for the many quilts she pieced, or for the patches needed to keep her large family from "showing through".

The characters were many and varied as the rag bag raids would allow. Many an hour was whiled away making these little characters--then using them to put on "mini" shows for each other.

As Granny had eight daughters, there were many cousins.

Incidentally, Granny's clothes "pens" were used to hang only the finest things that had been washed on a rub board and usually "biled". The rest was spread on the grass or hung on the fence in good weather. On bad days the kitchen and wash shed were strewn with wet clothes, while meal times were a challenge to the nose with the air permeated with cooking odors, wood smoke, lye soap, and the wet steaminess of drying clothes.

You too might enjoy making an authentic clothes "pen" doll as I and my cousins by the dozens did in the "Good Ole Days" of the horse and buggy, shanks-~~mares~~ annual picnic on the grounds, Brush Arbor days, and Gospel singin' at the village church.

- - - - -  
 "I wish my little girl could see these dolls - she'd be crazy about them!"

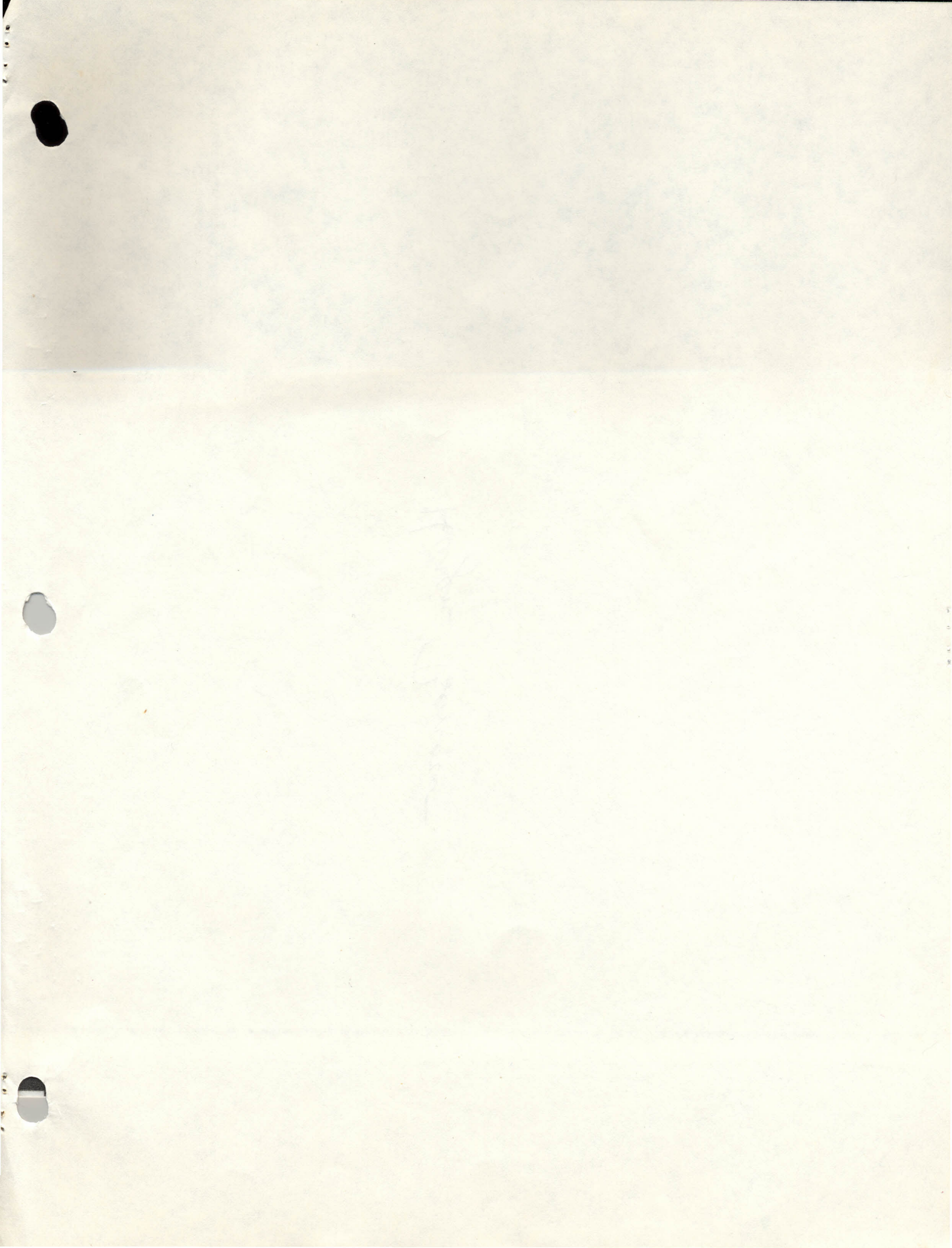
But the chances are good that she would not be at all. Modern children are apt to be bored with antique dolls. Perhaps it is because they differ so much from the modern dolls to which they are accustomed. More probably it is because dolls do not mean to the child of today what they meant to her grandmothers and great-grandmothers of the 1860-80's when a doll was a lifetime possession - perhaps her only toy. Around it the little girl of those days built an imaginary world in which the colored buttons from grandmother's button box were lovely jewels; the crystals from a discarded hanging lamp were necklaces; and grandmother's butter pats or some bits of broken crockery were the finest china.

-The Dolls of Yesteryear, Eleanor St. George











**BAXTER COUNTY HISTORY**

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*Hazen Borow*