

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

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Associate Membership, \$2.50

CO-EDITORS

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

PRESIDENT

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

VICE-PRESIDENT

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

SECRETARY

Nancy A. Grass, 432 Glenstone Dr., Mountain Home, Ar.

TREASURER

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

HISTORIAN

Hazen E. Bonow
Rt. 4, Panther Creek Rd., Mountain Home, Ar., 72653

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

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

Neither the Society nor the Editors assume any responsibility for statements made by the contributors.

FROM THE EDITORS:

We repeat what we said in the last Quarterly "History" to re-emphasize it - The purpose of our Society is "To promote and maintain popular interest in the history of Baxter County, Arkansas, and to acquire, restore, preserve, and maintain any and all things pertaining to the history of Baxter County for the benefit and education of the general public".

Our Quarterly "History" will need the help of every one who knows something of the history of anything that concerns Baxter County. If you can write about it...wonderful. If you wish to talk about it, let the editors know and they will arrange for an informal tape recording. If you have old letters, documents, diaries, photographs, relics etc., that concern this or adjacent counties, please let us use them. We will care for them and return them.

Articles on early families, towns, churches, farming, industries, roads, means of transportation, stores, mills, recreation, celebrations, fairs, home comings, get-togethers, hunting, etc. are especially needed.

If you know of someone who has memories of these early doings, either record these memories or let us know so arrangements can be made to do it. We are very late in starting this so we must not put it off!

Due to the temporary absence of our treasurer, D. Garvin Carroll, we are unable in this issue to give his second article on R.I.P. nor the names of the new members added since the Charter Member list. We will certainly have them in the next issue.

You will notice that this "History" is mimeographed except for the cover. This was made necessary by the high cost of the offset printing method used on the first quarterly. Now we will not be able to include photographs but can include sketches. Later we hope to have one sheet of photographs.

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A PICTORIAL HISTORY OF ARKANSAS FROM EARLIEST TIMES TO YEAR 1890.

By Fay Hempstead. (St. Louis and New York: N. D. Thompson Publishing Company 1890) 1144 - 1145

B A X T E R C O U N T Y

Baxter County, the sixty-eighth county created, was formed March 24, 1873, out of territory taken from the counties of Marion, Fulton, Izard and Searcy, and was named in honor of Governor Elisha Baxter. The temporary seat of justice was established at Mountain Home, and that place also became the permanent county seat.

Baxter is a northern border county, bounded north by the Missouri line, east by Fulton and Izard, south by Stone and west by Marion counties. Its area is about 600 square miles.

In surface, the county varies, part being hilly and part level and undulating valley lands. The soil is generally fertile and of good productiveness. There is no railroad in the county, the nearest railroad point being fifty miles distant. A stage line from West Plains, Missouri, to Mountain Home is the chief line of travel to reach the county.

There are forty public schools, kept open from four to eight months in the year, and one high-school at Mountain Home.

There are about thirty churches in the county, embracing the different denominations.

The towns of the county are Mountain Home, Gassville, Big Flat, Lone Rock and Colfax.

Mountain Home, the county seat, is a place of about 400 population. It has two hotels; three churches: a Methodist Episcopal Church, South, Missionary Baptist, and a Christian Church.

A prominent citizen of Baxter County is Hon. Van Buren Tate, who was Senator from the district in 1885. He was born in Buncombe county, North Carolina, December 22d, 1837. His father moved to Batesville with the family in 1852, and in July of the same year to Yellville, Marion county. In 1867 he was licensed to preach, and three years later was ordained a deacon in the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. He was made an elder in 1873. In 1876 he was elected to the Legislature, and again in 1880 and 1882, and to the Senate in 1885. On the 17th of June, 1874, he married, in Marion county, Arkansas, Miss Elizabeth Denton, daughter of Rev. William Denton, a Baptist minister. By this marriage there are eight children.

(cont. next page)

THE FOLLOWING HAVE BEEN COUNTY OFFICERS:

DATE	JUDGE	CLERK	SHERIFF	TREASURER
1873 to 1874	- - - - -	C. A. Eatman	A. G. Byler	Wm. Denton (1)
1874 to 1876	John S. Russell	C. A. Eatman	A. G. Byler	J. W. Hagden, 3
1876 to 1878	John S. Russell	C. A. Eatman	A. G. Byler	P. Henderson
1878 to 1880	John S. Russell	C. A. Eatman	A. G. Byler	P. Henderson
1880 to 1882	J. H. Linn	C. A. Eatman	A. G. Byler	J.P. Crownover, 2
1882 to 1884	J. W. Cypert	C. A. Eatman	A. G. Byler	J.S. Howard
1884 to 1886	J. W. Cypert	C. A. Eatman	Jacob H. Wolf	J. S. Howard
1886 to 1888	S. J. Megee	R. M. Hancock	J. H. Wolf	J. S. Howard
1888 to 1890	J. S. Russell	R. M. Hancock	J. H. Wolf	W.B. Henderson

DATE	CORONER	SURVEYOR	ASSESSOR
1873 to 1874	M. J. Wolf	John Jordan	V. B. Tate
1874 to 1876	J. M. Wolf	W. P. Hargrave	V. B. Tate
1876 to 1878	S. H. Talburt	W. P. Hargrave	E. H. Messick
1878 to 1880	J. H. Wolf	R. E. Hurst	W. A. Collis
1880 to 1882	J. H. Wolf	R. E. Hurst	W. A. Collis
1882 to 1884	J. L. Elliott	R. E. Hurst	J. A. Carter
1884 to 1886	J. L. Elliott	E. N. Osborn	J. A. Carter
1886 to 1888	J. L. Elliott	T. B. Goforth	W. A. Collis
1888 to 1890	J. L. Elliott	T. B. Goforth	J. B. Schoggen

- 1 - Hagdey declared elected by Board of Supervisors, 1873, vice Denton.
2. Died before qualified, and J. S. Howard elected July, 1881.
3. M. G. Anglen elected May 15th, 1875, vice Hagdey.

"RETIRED TEACHERS HONOR PINKSTONS"

(See article on Rural Schools of Baxter County 50 years ago)

Ed Pinkston and his wife Mrs. Fannie Pinkston, of Mountain Home were recipients Friday of a special citation of merit for their many contributions to Baxter County and the state of Arkansas, presented at the Baxter County Retired Teachers Association meeting.

According to Olan G. Ruble, association president, the citation was prepared and approved by the state legislature's joint interim committee on legislative affairs at its Aug. 15 meeting. Mrs. Pinkston was the organizer and first president of the RTA, and for that reason its meeting seemed to Rep. Vada Sheid of Mountain Home the most appropriate place for the citation to be presented, Rubie said. Pinkston served for many years as Baxter County clerk and both he and his wife have been influential teachers and continuously involved citizens of the county and state, it was pointed out in honoring them.

via Baxter Bulletin 9-4-1975

ANNUAL DUES ARE DUE AND PAYABLE TO THE TREASURER AT THE JANUARY MEETING.
THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINS JANUARY 1.

"GENERAL HISTORY OF THE RURAL SCHOOLS LOCATED IN
BAXTER COUNTY FIFTY (50) YEARS AGO"
by Ed J. Pinkston

There were approximately 75 school districts in this county at that time, four of which were termed as high schools. Cotter and Mountain Home had 4 years of high school, offering 16 subjects for credit. Norfork and Big Flat only offered subjects through the ninth grade.

The rural schools were practically one room buildings, except possibly three buildings consisting of two rooms, which usually had two teachers, a Principal and a primary teacher. The principal would teach the 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th grades. The primary teacher would teach the beginners, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th grades. The subjects taught consisted of: reading, writing, (penmanship), arithmetic, spelling, (spelling was taught by two methods, written and oral), hygiene, physiology, Arkansas history, U. S. History, geography, and sometimes eighth grade algebra and civics.

Most of the school buildings were single wall and single floor construction with very small windows. Some of the buildings had wooden shutters on the outside of the windows that could be closed and fastened on the inside to protect the window panes from flying stones.

Practically every rural school had home made wooden seats, some with desks for books, others without any place to put the text books. It was not unusual for the boys to carve his initials on his seat.

The smaller schools had two rows of long seats with a narrow aisle at the end near the walls and a wide aisle between the two rows of seats. The seat arrangements depended upon whether or not the building had two entrance doors. The front seats were used as and referred to as "recitation benches" to seat the classes during class periods. A large percent of the rural buildings had a portion of the walls painted with black paint. This was known as the "black boards". Black boards were used very often, especially for spelling, arithmetic and for giving weekly and monthly examinations in the various subjects. The districts with adequate school revenue would purchase regular black boards with trays for chalk and erasers. Dustless chalk had not been invented at this age. More slates were used than pencil tablets. The earlier tablets were thick and narrow. The paper was coarse and woody and rather easily torn.

Many of the school districts voted less than 10 mills to operate and support the school. The poorer districts only had 3 months of school each year. The school terms usually began the first or second Monday of July. The schools with split terms also started on the first or second Monday of July. After 3 months a school vacation would be declared which lasted from 6 weeks to 8 weeks at which time the children would be available to help harvest and gather the crops, cut the winter wood and strip and cut the cane for sorghum.

The schools were very poorly equipped. Reference books and libraries were not heard of or known to exist. Text books were purchased by the parents. Not all parents could afford to furnish books especially if there were from 5 to 7 of their children in school.

Some of the districts did furnish a set of maps that operated like a window shade, a chart of the A B C's and occasionally a huge dictionary on a stand.

(cont. next page)

"General History of Rural Schools Located in Baxter County" - cont.

The directors would furnish the school at the beginning of the term with 2 water buckets and two dippers. Water was carried from a near by spring, not usually more than a quarter of a mile away. Some of the districts furnished a "cooler" with a spigot. This sanitary situation was not as successful as the buckets. After realizing that the students should not drink from the dippers, they were requested to bring or furnish their own individual drinking cups. This was the beginning of the age of making paper cups to drink from. This created a problem too.

The only floor sweep available was saw dust treated with a mixture of kerosene (coal oil). The teacher prepared the floor sweep and did the janitor work. The schools that had only 3 months of summer school did not need a stove or winter wood. The schools with split terms used a large wood heater located slightly to the front in the middle of the building. Much of the time the wood was green or wet. The teacher could easily get volunteers to carry in the heating wood if they could do it on school time. I had students do extra chores as punishment for "breaking the rules or violating the law".

It was a real hardship on the teacher when the school buildings were used for "socials", church and Sunday School meetings and other community services. It was necessary for the children to take all their books home at night if the building was to be used nightly. All books were taken home on week ends. Speaking of books, more than half of the student body did not have a complete set of text books. Borrowing books from each other was a common practice.

Most of the children under 14 years of age went bare-footed during the summer months because it was a custom and in most cases because it was a necessity. A teacher always remembers how thoughtful some of the children could be to him by bringing flowers, fruits, molasses cookies and many other gifts. A teacher never forgets those who came to school very poorly clad and under nourished. It became a very "touching" experience when those came to school on cold days without shoes, no coats or jackets and more saddening, without food for their lunch. Many times I have shared my lunch with them. In many instances the teacher would provide clothing for the most under privileged children. Practically 100 percent of all the clothing was made in the home.

There was no play ground or recreational equipment what so ever. Most of the games were "running" activities, such as sack races, foot races, jumping, playing ball, wolf-over-ridge, drop the handkerchief, crack the whip and many others. Playing marbles was a favorite among the boys.

The district furnished a crude toilet for the girls, but the boys headed for the bushes in an opposite direction from the girls' toilet headquarters to find cover for their "rest rooms".

The fact that all school terms were short, it took two or three years for most of the children to complete a grade or be promoted to the next grade. This depended upon attendance and the ability of the child. With all 8 grades, it was necessary to combine some classes, especially in the 7th and 8th grades. The ages in these two grades varied from 16 to 20-year olds.

Teachers salaries varied. Many teachers would contract a three month summer term for \$100.00. Very few teachers received more than \$60.00 per month.

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RURAL SCHOOLS OF BAXTER COUNTY - cont.

Board and laundry ran from \$7.50 to \$12.50 per month. Teachers had to take an examination before the County Supervisor for his or her license. Only first, second and third grade teacher's licenses could be issued by the County Supervisor. Your grades in the various subjects depended upon the kind of license you received. Your grade average was the deciding factor. High school or college credits were not mandatory at this time in order to obtain a teachers license.

I hope that facts and personal references will not be construed as a boastful manner. I entered by first school in July 1912. I finished the eighth grade in 1927. I took the teachers' examination in June 1927 and began my first school term at Casteel the first Monday in July 1927. I received \$50.00 per month and paid \$8.00 per month for room and board. I shared my bed with two boys who were too big to attend school. I taught 3 years before I started attending high school. I entered high school at Calico Rock about the 15th of November 1929. I had just finished a 4-1/2 month term at Bean. I had to teach every year in order to have funds to buy my books, pay tuition and room and board. I attended summer school at the Old Baptist college. I finished high school in the spring of 1932 at Mountain Home. To be explicit, I completed 4 years of high school, taught 16 months and completed a four subject course, earning 9 hours from the Arkansas State Teachers College at Conway, Arkansas, in three calendar years. I was 25 years old and held a State-Wide Teachers License.

I taught in three school districts that I had attended during my grade school education. I attended summer schools, took night courses and extension work until I quit teaching in the spring of 1947 at Salesville. I had approximately 2 years of college credits, which was not enough to encourage me to continue my education.

My last three years at Salesville was quite a contrast to the first school at Casteel. The school terms were 9 months and my salary was \$200.00 per month.

I often refer to those rural people as "The salt of the earth". They were an understanding people. Their word was their honor. They were loyal, cooperative, friendly and good neighbors. They believed in the Golden Rule. Almost without exception, if a teacher had to punish one of his children in school, he or she would be punished at home.

My years of teaching and working with the parents and their children in the rural sections of this county are the most gratifying and rewarding experiences that could ever happen to a person who loves children and appreciates people. I shall always be grateful and indebted to those who became my life time friends and let me be their friend and servant.

Ed. J. Pinkston

Ed. - Ed's full name is Edward Jefferson Pinkston. His father was Thomas Jefferson Pinkston. When Ed registered for voting the first time, he had to use his full name, and as he writes "big" he had difficulty getting all on the short line. Since then it has been ruled that the middle initial could be used so he re-registered using the initial.

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also see page - 12

PROGRESS OF BAXTER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
By Hazen E. Bonow, Historian

Our meetings have continued monthly during the Summer with exceptionally fine programs, thanks to our excellent program chairman Alice Mae King.

MAY.- Mrs. Don Alley gave an informative talk on the old land records of our county.

JUNE - Garvin Carrolls' program was about the cemeteries and their markers. He showed a map he made with the location of Baxter County cemeteries and he hopes to have a complete record soon.

JULY - Mr. Bob Acheson told the history of our nation's flags. He brought a number of beautiful flags to illustrate his talk. It was most informative and interesting.

AUGUST - Mrs. Arthur Boyd of Cotter gave a program on the history of our "railroads". She had photos of some old time engines and trains. The program ended with a tape recording of "Casey Jones" and "I've been working on the Railroad" with everyone joining in by singing. We met at the Cotter City Park by the White River with perfect weather. Delicious home-made ice cream and cakes were served ending a most delightful meeting.

SEPTEMBER - Mrs. Esta Taylor entertained with her collection of hand-made dolls. She had a very unusual display from the first old-time rag dolls to the corn-cob, corn-shuck, clothes-pin, apple and dough head dolls, and even a carved wooden doll.

* * * * *

"HOME COMFORT RANGE"

DO YOU REMEMBER WHEN - The "Home Comfort" wood burning range was a fixture in almost every kitchen? First manufactured in 1864 it was noted for quality. A letter from Mrs. J. A. Case of Mountain Home to the manufacturer in about 1925 stated:

Gentlemen: We purchased a "Home Comfort" range from one of your traveling salesmen in 1885, and this range has been in constant use all this time. Sixteen years of this time, we used the range in a hotel, during which it was kept hot almost day and night. We have recently purchased one of your latest model enameled "Home Comfort" ranges, altho our old one is still in fairly good shape. After 40 years experience with your "Home Comfort" range, I can cheerfully recommend it without a single reservation.

Mrs. J. A. Case

Mrs. Case was the owner of the Mountain Home Hotel just off the square. She was the mother of Mrs. Tom Shiras.

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and held the
initial

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GENEALOGICAL NOTES by
Joseph and Irma Bloom, R.4, Mtn. Home

Born - married - died!
Such is the lot of all!
Power, wealth, glory, pride,
End in - a funeral pall!

Anyone interested in genealogical research that concerns Arkansas should visit the Arkansas History Commission at Little Rock, Arkansas. Much of the material is on microfilm. Readers are available. Mr. R. P. Baker, Archivist and his limited staff are very helpful. Without a doubt, this is one of the finest sources, if not the best, for Arkansas genealogical materials.

* * *

Fire has destroyed many historical buildings and Court Houses throughout our land. Along with buildings priceless records were also consumed. Baxter County, Arkansas was only one of the many that suffered this fate. Before micro-filming such records were lost forever.

Although many land transactions, vital statistics, cemetery records, manuscripts and periodicals have now been micro-filmed, far too many still run the risk of total destruction. Mr. R. P. Baker of the History Commission says that in the not too distant future the Commission hopes to supervise the micro-filming of the Baxter County records. Many organizations in the area, such as churches, possess early records that should be protected against loss. These many organizations will be given an opportunity to have such records micro-filmed.

* * *

The Baxter County Courthouse burned February 23, 1890. However, many records were saved. Among them were pages in Book B, Marriage Records, with charred edges, which record marriages starting with Sept. 1886. The Marriage Record gives a great deal of genealogical information. It consists of BOND OF MARRIAGE LICENSE, MARRIAGE AFFIDAVIT, MARRIAGE LICENSE, CERTIFICATE OF MARRIAGE and the CERTIFICATE OF RECORD

The first marriages recorded in Book B - Marriage Record - Baxter County, Arkansas were as follows:

James M. Maynard to Catherine Mason	Sept. 15, 1886
D. C. Watts to Mary A. Silvertooth	Oct. 24, 1886
Roland W. Taylor to Sallie Wylie	Oct. 24, 1886
Andrew Bethell to Annie Reeves	Nov. 8, 1886
Robert L. Stone to Linie Feverbauth	Nov. 9, 1886
J. H. Landrum to Amanda Pinkston	Nov. 9, 1886
H. R. Thornton to Cora A. Reynolds	Nov. 20, 1886
T. M. Hamilton to Mrs. Jennie Mooney	Nov. 21, 1886
Dixon Cooper to Sarah Roberdst. next	Dec. 2, 1886
S. J. Reed to Lillie Mitchell	Dec. 11, 1886
J. H. Stiner to Laura White	Dec. 18, 1886
C. W. Leonhardt to Ella J. Barton	Dec. 18, 1886
T. S. Talburt to Malinda Shrabel	Dec. 29, 1886

* * *

"FAMILY HOTELS" - A HOME AWAY FROM HOME"

by Mrs. Esta Mae Messick
as told to Mary Ann Messick

Years ago, the family hotel was to the traveler what the motel is to the motorist today--and more. It was truly a home away from home.

Early in the 1900's the Missouri Pacific Railroad was completed through Northern Arkansas and approximately every 15 miles watertanks, depots, and section houses were built to maintain and operate the track and trains. Little towns grew up around these railroad facilities and the family hotel was one of the first buildings constructed. It was usually the grandest building, inside and out, in these new towns. At least this was so at Norfork, where I grew up.

The hotel at Norfork was sort of two buildings in one. At back was a huge kitchen, which also doubled as dining room for the family who ran the hotel. In the kitchen was a stairway leading up to the family's bedrooms. At the front of the house was a big lobby with a porch on both sides, to insure a shady place for the guests to sit and watch the town go by.

Inside the lobby was a fancy staircase leading to the guest rooms. In one corner of the lobby was a pot-bellied stove and an assortment of office type chairs for the guests to relax in and swap tales on a cold winter night. In the other corner was the register desk and a swivel chair.

Next to the lobby was the dining room with a long table which was always covered with a sparkling white cloth. Over the table hung a beautiful crystal chandelier. The chairs were the fanciest I had ever seen and the wallpaper was big red roses, blooming year around, on a white background. The ceilings were papered with matching ceiling paper. West of the dining room was the parlor, which was used by the family to entertain their friends. Back of the parlor was their spare bedroom. The hotel provided a good living for the entire family and employment for one or two girls in Norfork.

Upstairs, the guest rooms were dominated by a brass-posted bed, with the mound of soft feather bed and pillows always covered with a sparkling white fringed counterpane. As there was no closet or bathroom, the fringe discreetly hid a white enameled chamberpot and lid, which were under the bed. A marble topped wash stand held a porcelain basin, pitcher and towel rack. The rest of the furniture was a straight back chair, more to hang your clothes on than for sitting, and a corner table which held the kerosene lamp with shining globe and trim wick.

Nearly all salesmen (or I should say salespersons) traveled by train and since there was only one passenger train a day, they had to spend at least one night in every town. One beautiful summer afternoon my older sister, Oralee, dressed up in her best dress and went visiting, I thought. She came home at supper time, looking gorgeous, smelling like one of the roses on the wallpaper at the hotel, and carrying a box of Madame Dubarry's beauty aids. The traveling beauty lady had invited all the young ladies in town to a party in the hotel lobby and demonstrated her products on each of them.

Norfork didn't have a dentist but twice a year the dentist came from Cotter and for a week used the hotel lobby for his office. I had my first teeth filled there by Dr. Palenske when I was fourteen. All the shows in those days were traveling troupes, mostly vaudeville or magicians. They would put up at the hotel while playing in Norfork. (Cont. next page)

"FAMILY HOTELS - A HOME AWAY FROM HOME" by Mary Ann Messick - cont.

thers who made up the Hotel's clientele were politicians, real estate men, teachers, and families who were looking for a farm to buy or a house to rent. This was the case of my family, the W. H. Raymonds, in January of 1921. We had just returned to Norfolk from Tulsa, Oklahoma and were living in the upstairs apartment at the hotel until Dad could find us a house to rent.

My uncle, Andrew Raymond of Cotter, had just passed away at the Missouri Pacific Railroad Hospital at Little Rock. His funeral was to be on Sunday at 2 o'clock. At one, Mrs. Mary Lackey, the hotel proprietress knocked on our door. She asked me if I could come down and help her and the hired girl fix dinner for forty unexpected guests. The railroad had run a special train down from Cotter for my uncle's funeral. As I hurried through the hotel lobby, it seemed to my hardly 13-year old eyes that the room was wall to wall with handsome, well-dressed gentlemen and I was scared to death I'd do something wrong. Displaying that special brand of Ozark ingenuity that has made this country great, Mrs. Lackey hastily decided all she could prepare for that many guests on such a short notice was pancakes. As fast as she got a batch cooked on the double griddle, the hired girl and I would serve them. I don't remember making any boos, and at the same time I don't remember even one small detail of my uncle's funeral. I do remember the hired girl asking for a raise while the pancakes were flying. She was getting room and board, plus three dollars a week. She got up her nerve to ask for \$3.50 a week while the iron was hot--or I should say griddle--and she got it.

In 1927 when the Geographic Film Company of Hollywood, California came to Norfolk to film "Thou Shalt Not Kill", the film crew and male stars stayed at the hotel, which was then operated by my cousins, Hattie and Quinby Swearingen. The hotel always served family style meals and the guests from Hollywood feasted daily on bounty from the town's gardens--cabbage slaw, lettuce and tomatoes, green beans, new potatoes, fresh corn, peach cobbler--the whole luscious works. Everybody in Norfolk was up in arms when an article came out in one of the movie magazines which stated that all they had to eat in Arkansas was fried potatoes and cold biscuits. My husband wrote a letter to the editor of the magazine and it was published--telling the truth about the delicious meals served at the hotel.

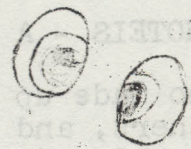
The last time I remember visiting in the hotel at Norfolk was in 1929. Hattie was in the kitchen with the hired girl and they were boiling pinto beans for dinner the quick way. You boiled the beans in soda water for awhile, then poured it off. This was supposed to make the beans cook faster and be more digestible. I was very sad when the hotel at Norfolk burned down a few years ago. Yet in my memory it will always be one of the fanciest and most intriguing places of my childhood.

* * * * *

On Nov. 28, 1924, the Baxter Bulletin states "The Big Flat School District in Baxter County, the Round Mountain District in Stone County, and Cedar Creek Districts in Searcy County, are planning a consolidation with the Big Flat District as the center. A meeting was held at Big Flat recently which was unanimously in favor of consolidation. Ed Boyd of Round Mountain Home spoke in favor of the move.

* * * * *

DO YOU REMEMBER ? ? ?
by Hazen Bonow



THE HALLOWEEN OF YEARS AGO??? There were plenty of tricks but I can't recall getting the treats!

On enquiring around I learned of several happenings in this County some time ago. One farmer found his cows away in the corner of a field fenced in a small area. His fence had been taken down and rebuilt around the cows. A lot of fence gates were always removed and hidden, and the "out-house" turned over. Most of the time these things happened to someone they didn't like too well!

The day following Halloween one might see a few "out-houses" around the court house square, and at least once a wagon on the courthouse roof. It had been dismantled, carried up and put back together!

Each year Marge Dahlke, the librarian, would have to go looking for the "dog-house" which used to set at the top of the steps leading to the Library when it was on the second floor above the fire department. The "dog-house" was placed there for returned books when the library was closed.

Then there was the county school house which was empty! All the desks, tables and anything removable had been carried out and placed in the school yard..

Quinby Smith recalls using a string with resin on it. It would be attached to the house or window and he would pull his finger back and forth and make a very wierd sound.

My favorite was the "Tick-Tack". We took a large empty thread spool and notched the ends. A string was attached around the middle of the spool and wound up. A wire would hold the spool in place while you pulled the string on the house or window. Then you would run and hide - disappointed if someone didn't come out. Sheets or disguises were used so we wouldn't be recognized.

Mae Jones' most unforgettable Halloween was a party at the old Baptist College. On arriving they found all the lights in the building out, with only the front entry-way open. On walking in the doorway, one at a time, a cold wet hand reached out to greet you which sent chills down your spine! This was just the beginning of the "ghost house" tricks!

Bobbing for apples and having a "ghost house" were the favorite party entertainments. Popcorn balls, made with sorghum molasses was the popular refreshment. I recall a neighbor planning on having some extra fun with the children. He rigged up a bucket of water on his front porch roof just over the porch steps. He fastened a rope to the bucket and brought it down across the steps so anyone coming in would trip and overturn the bucket of water on themselves. Sometime during the evening while in the rear of his house he heard noises in front. He rushed out to see the fun BUT he ran into the rope and overturned the water on himself. It was the youngsters who had the last laugh!

THE WOLF HOUSE

Delving into the history of the old Wolf House is like turning the pages of an Arkansas history book.

The house came into existence in 1809, when Major Jacob Wolf was appointed Indian Agent to the Cherokee Nation and other tribes in Arkansas. He and his negro slaves poled a flat boat to the mouth of the Big North Fork of the White River, and there they and the Indians the Major hired cleared land and built the house that later was to be famous as the "Wolf Mansion". Only yellow pine logs were used, each hewn and dove-tailed perfectly, to make the building sound and waterproof. A blacksmith shop was built simultaneously so that hinges, rivets and shutters needed for the house could be forged. A log kitchen was built nearby. After the house was completed, Major Wolf brought his young bride there.

The house was two stories, two rooms each eighteen feet square on each floor, all opening onto front and back verandas, the front verandas facing the White River, with a spectacular view of two rivers and surrounding hills. The house, with blacksmith shop, sawmill and grist mill, constituted the settlement of Liberty. This became the jumping off place for new settlers and traders, who were outfitted here for their new life in the wilderness.

One of the four rooms in the Wolf Mansion, as it was now known, served as a Courtroom from 1811 on, and also as the first County Seat of Izzard County in 1825. Many famous guests, including Sam Houston and Davy Crockett were guests of the Wolfs.

Major Wolf was married three times, and had sixteen children, so the Mansion witnessed many happy, as well as sad events. Major Wolf died in 1863. The house then passed into other hands, and during the 1920's it was made into apartments. In 1938, after standing empty for some time, the house was restored through a Federal program and deeded to the Town of Norfork. A Museum was established, but unfortunately the valuable pioneer articles gradually disappeared, and the Museum was forced to close its doors.

Early in the 1960's, the Elna M. Smith Foundation of Eureka Springs became interested in the Mansion and offered to restore it. In 1966 the restoration was completed and the house dedicated on May 8, 1966. It contains over four hundred valuable relics and period antiques, and is open to the public for a modest fee.

The Wolf House is one of Arkansas' finest and most famous landmarks, and should be treasured as such.

Mrs. Alice Hanks Geary Mueting

(Ed. Nrs, Mueting is a great-great-granddaughter of Major Jacob Wolf.)

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Following the letter are items about the Hutchesons as given in Mary Ann Messicks' "History of Baxter County" and in the Baxter Bulletin.

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"Rev. M. M. Hutcheson married Martha Beck. She was born Jan. 8, 1832 and died November 28, 1895. She was buried at the old Oakland Cemetery six miles east of Mountain Home. At this time this cemetery was located on Old Highway 62. Buried beside her is her daughter Rose Roe, who was the mother of Dr. Charlie Roe, deceased, of Viola, and grandmother of Preacher Roe, now at West Plains.

"Rev. and Mrs. Hutcheson had six children, among them was Alf Hutcheson and Mildred Hutcheson Hanks. After the Rev. Hutchesons death, Mrs. Hutcheson with her six little children returned to Mountain Home."

Centre Postoffice, Texas County, Mo.
March 4th 1871

Calvin & Jane & Family

Dear Brother, Sister & Friends. Through the goodness of God I am permitted to drop you a line by which you may know that we are all well & truly hope that these lines will find you all well. I have nothing of interest to write or rather have not time to write. I like this contry as much as I have seede of it - very well. They have not much refined society here people do not care much for God nor Man. Most of them though there good citizens here & I think that the Law & the people will restore order to the contry. Times is hard here. Money is scarce property is down labor low provisions high & the wather cold in parts of the contry religion is a stranger & in other parts there is all sorts of denominations. There several of the Decipels of Christ in this contry but few congnagations in working order as a general thing they are putting their trust in their profesion and not in their practis. I have been hammering away combating eror on Every hand as best I cold. I have a grad le of oposition and I dont no what success will attend me but I put my trust in my God and I desire an interest in the prayers of all Christians pray to God for me that I Enter not into temptation give my Respects & Love to all the Brethern & friends & Especially to Brother Mat & Family & Uncle Andy & Aunt Sintha. Tell them all to write to me & tell them to direct to Centre Postoffice, Texas County.

I want you Calvin if there is any of them Patrons & Boos for cutting Cloths that Pringle left there to send me a few By Col. Bick & I will make it all rite if I Ever see you. Tell Mat & J. T. Campbell to write to me & in fact all of them.

If you know ware Pringles office is I want you to write it to me sonoone at present only. I remain your Fraternaly. M. M. Hutcheson & Family to C. Luther & Family. Martha & all the Pups joinin tendring their respects to all.

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HUTCHESON - continued

The History of Baxter County by Mary Ann Messick states " R. C. Hutcheson came to Baxter County from Kentucky in 1810 with Major Wolf's party. His wife, Nancy, was Major Wolf's daughter and they settled near the Wolf establishment at the fork of the Northfork and White Rivers. There they engaged in farming and stock raising. His second wife was Polly McCubbin. He was the father of 21 children, among them Lizzie Pugh; Nettie Hawkins, who latter married a Herron; Lucinda McGuffin; Mag Hall; Nan Smith; Tom; John; George; Dick; Charlie; Mike; Matt; Susan Martin; and Cinda Harris. Dick, George, John and Mike were in the Confederate Army. Several of the sons were prominent Masons. The family was divided between the Methodist and Baptist faiths. All were progressive citizens of the county. M. M. Hutcheson, son of R. C. and Nancy Wolf Hutcheson married Martha Beck, born January 8, 1832, died Nov. 28, 1895. They were the parents of six children - only two, Mildred Elizabeth and Alf, raised families in Baxter County. M. M. Hutcheson was an early day Christian preacher at Mountain Home.

Mildred Elizabeth Hutcheson married John Hanks and they were the parents of nine children. Only one, Mrs. Alice Hanks Geary Mueting, still lives in Baxter County. Alf Hutcheson also had nine children and only one son, Ray Hutcheson, still lives in Mountain Home.

Now quoting from the writings of a mysterious "G. H." in the Baxter Bulletin in 1904: "In 1843 I was at North Fork at the big Baptist Camp-meeting. The four Wolf Brothers, Jacob, Michael, John and Loranzo, Richard Hutchison, the James, Mrs. Mary Peters, Matthew Adams, John A. Beck, the Hargraves and the Talberts camped at the old church one mile above the Northfork; from 10 to 15 days was the usual time. There was a lot of five or six acres for the horses, corn and oats to feed all the horses that came and water in the lot. Negroes did the cooking and when a meal was ready one of the old fellers went around and hunted up the strangers and saw that they were fed. I have seen 500 persons there. The camps were built of logs in a square, with roofs extending in front some eight or ten feet. Scaffolding was built at intervals over the ground and at night pine-knot fires lighted up the place. Major Jacob Wolf and John Wolf were the preachers and I forgotten just who all were Baptist preachers, as it was the gals I went to see and not for the gospel."

Not only the Major, but his entire household including the slaves were members of the Baptist Church. One day a young slave named London, who belonged to his sister, came to the Major's shop and took up an argument between the Major and his sister. As London was leaving, the old Major kicked him in the seat of the pants. His sister demanded satisfaction for London so the Major made his acknowledgment to the church. "Brethren I am sorry, truly sorry this thing happened." He paused, while the congregation shook their heads in agreement, then added, "But if it was to happen over, I'd behave the same way again." This statement proved satisfactory to the church, his sister and to London and peace reigned again at the Wolf House.

In a photograph of the Primary School Group - 1897 (on page 157 of the History of Baxter County) is Lawson Hutcheson, brother of Ray Hutcheson.

(continued next page)

HUTCHESON - continued

Before the Suspended Truss Type steel bridge over the Norfolk River was dedicated June 17, 1937, cars and wagons crossed on a current powered ferry. This ferry was established by Colson in 1902. F. F. Pierce later bought the ferry and ran it until 1916 when it was taken over by S. J. HUTCHESON who operated it until the bridge was completed. Mountain Home boys who dated girls at Calico Rock recall that Hutcheson didn't like to be awakened after he went to bed, so they would ferry themselves across on the way back home. In the many years that Hutcheson operated the ferry, there never was a serious accident.

Frank Pierce, the builder of two unusual buildings near Norfolk, was a hardy adventurer from Kansas, who located near Norfolk about 1903. Pierce owned the fine river bottom farm later sold to S. J. Hutcheson.

A son of S. J. Hutcheson, Dr. Vero Hutcheson, about 1920 had an office upstairs in the Mooney Drug Store. This is the building now occupied by Sam Clark's office supplies.

July 31, 1925, the Baxter Bulletin reported that the new cotton gin being erected at Mountain Home by S. J. Hutcheson of Norfolk was nearing completion. The machinery had been shipped. The gin would be modern throughout.

Aug. 21, 1925, The machinery would arrive this week and be set up in five days. The Mountain Home Electric Company was pouring the foundation for its new big oil engine which would arrive in a few days. The gin will be driven by a large motor. The additional load made a larger engine necessary.

Sept. 18, 1925. The new Hutcheson gin started active operation Thursday and farmers are crowding it with cotton. They had a narrow escape Tuesday evening late when they started the gin, when the overflow caught on fire. There was a flash like exploding powder and in an instant a large pile of cotton was ablaze. Quick work on the part of those present put the fire out. A wagon sheet nearby was thrown over the blazing staple and smothered it.

The town of Hutcheson was born in 1941 during the construction of the Norfolk dam. It was located between the town of Spencer (at the dam site) and Salesville (also known as Ellis) on highway 5. Hutcheson was dismantled shortly after June 2, 1944.

The Lower East (also known as Old) Oakland cemetery where some of the Hutchesons and Roes are interred, is 1/2 mile south of the East Oakland Cemetery (beside the church on highway 62), atop a hill, just off the county road. This is one of the oldest cemeteries in the county with many unmarked graves. At present, the cemetery is in a very uncared for condition.

Ray Hutcheson was appointed director of the First State Building and Loan Association in 1960.

* * * * *

We had a very nice letter from James Logan Morgan, Editor of the "Stream of History", by the Jackson County Historical Society, Newport, Arkansas, thanking us for sending them our quarterly as an exchange and wishing us the best of luck.

He adds: "I have published the 1850 census of IZARD County and 1850 census of FULTON County (2 of the 4 parent counties of Baxter) and would like to donate a copy of each to your library in memory of my Baxter County ancestors (Thrasher, Pinkston, Landrum)-- if someone hasn't already given a copy".

The librarian, Mrs. Dalke, said they do not have these items and would appreciate very much their donation. We so informed Mr. Morgan.

* * * * *

50 years ago - Dec. 26, 1924 Baxter Bulletin:

The following greeting card was received by the Bulletin from A. E. Elliot, linotype salesman. In a way it goes to show how things have changed: "Twenty years ago the paper was set by hand and it took a week. You took a load of wood on subscription and had to dig to pay the printer \$10.00 per week. It took 20 yards of cloth to make a dress and a woman's place was in the kitchen. The men wore mustaches, drank red liquor, spit on the sidewalk and cussed. Folks traveled via horse and buggy or walked 10 miles to wish each a Merry Christmas.

"Now you set the paper on the Linotype and it's easy to pay the operator \$40. per week. You get real money on subscriptions and automobile and radio ads furnish money to drive 40 miles on paved roads after supper to see a show. You drink grape juice and there is no "morning after." We elect the women to office. It takes three yards of cloth to make a dress, and if you'll agree that the world is getting better, I wish you a Happy New Year."

* * * * *

Dec. 19, 1924 - Baxter Bulletin:

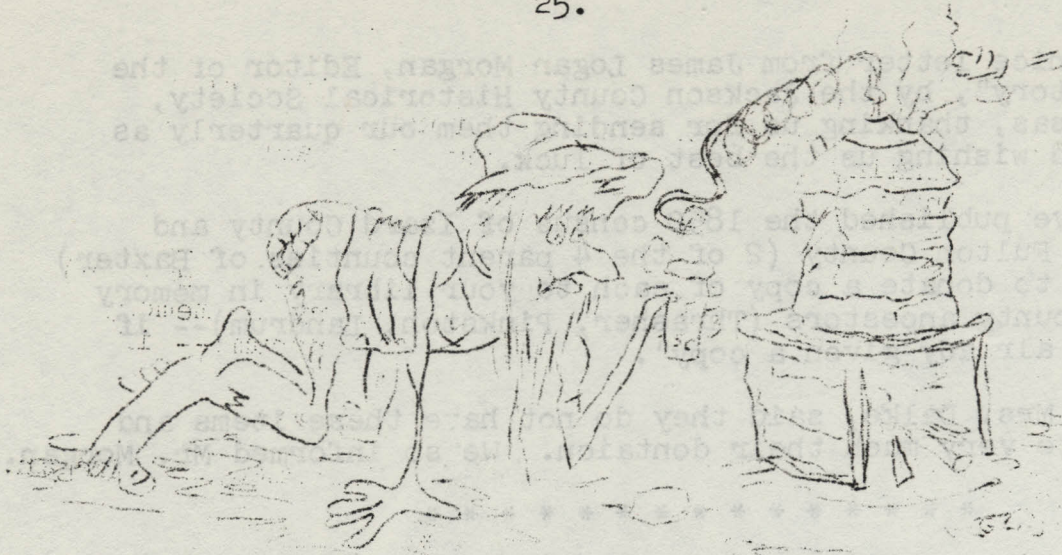
While drilling a well for water at the White River Marble Company's quarry at Cartney, a small showing of oil was encountered. The showing came from sand at a depth of 200 feet. This is about three miles from a site located for a test by the Four Ways Oil Company. There are several surface showings of gas and oil in this vicinity.

* * * * *

RECIPE FOR BLACKBIRD PIE

Dress & cleanse well, a dozen blackbirds as you would pigeons. Split each in half, put them into stew pan with plenty of water, bring to boil. Skim off rising scum. Add salt & pepper, some minced parsley, chopped onion and about 3 whole cloves. Add about 1 cup diced salt pork, boil until tender. Thicken broth with browned flour & boil up. Add 2 T. butter, mix and remove from fire. Cool. Add 2 C. diced potatoes. Grease baking dish. Alternate layers of birds, potatoes, broth, cover with rich pastry crust. Bake until cooked and browned.

* * * * *



A great many people have no reason to remember that many years have passed since the Federal Prohibition ended with the ratification of the 21st amendment. Many others have good reason to remember prohibition and the law-breaking conditions that existed under it and how they caused the lives of many people to be affected.

The "Ozark Mountaineers" were some of these people, and the making of "moonshine" from their corn crop each year was a family tradition. The Prohibition period created an opportunity for a highly illegal income, with the distilling of "Mountain Dew" or "White Lightening" as it was commonly called.

The illegal distilling of corn whiskey had been going on for generations, prior to Federal Prohibition. Mountain people converted part of their crop into "corn squeezings" and avoided getting a legal license or paying a tax. Federal "Revenooers" had a campaign against moonshiners for many years before Prohibition became law.

The product of the mountain peoples' stills was used for serious medicinal intent, altho people seem to remember the mountaineer with his moonshine still and his jug and that he brewed the "likker" to get drunk and mean. It is quite tru that a large amount of corn whiskey was consumed for a recreational purpose.

The recipe was very simple for making "moonshine". The corn was ground and mixed into water to form a mash in a large tub or 55-gallon drum. The mash was heated over an open fire, causing it to work and form a "beer". It had to be stirred continuously. In heating and running beer through the still, some high powered liquid was produced and this in turn was run through two more times. A gallon to a gallon and a half of 200 proof liquor could come from a bushel of corn. This in turn was "cut" with spring water to make it drinkable. Then into the fruit jar or jug went the liquor.

The following was published in the Baxter Bulletin on July 24, 1925: "Sheriff Bob Hurst of Baxter County made a drive on the moonshiners this week and picked up three stills. The operators of these plants were all visiting when he arrived. He found one near Convile that was still hot, but the owner had got wind of his coming and skipped out. Another was found in the Maynard Bend on the North Fork River and another near Tracy's Ferry on the same stream. He destroyed them all and what mash he found at the sites."

by Gordon M. Lambrecht

BAXTER COUNTY HISTORY

Mr. & Mrs. Howard M. Knight, Co-editors
Rt. 4, Emerald Bay Road
Mountain Home, Arkansas 72653

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