



Wagon Wheels Digital Edition

Wagon Wheels is a historical and genealogical magazine that was published by the Logan County (Arkansas) Historical Society (LCHS) between the years 1980 and 2009. In its early years, it was a quarterly publication, but as time went on some issues were combined, and so later volumes may contain three, two, or even only a single issue. Publication of the magazine was interrupted in 1987 while the society was focused on putting together the book *Logan County, Arkansas: Its History and Its People*, so there is no Volume 7. A total of 83 issues were produced during its 29-year history.

The material in the publication is the product of the society's dedicated membership and comes from many sources. Some material is based on careful research of public and private records and publications. Other material is based on personal interviews and recollections. When the Society disbanded in 2009, the remaining printed issues, as well as research and production materials, were turned over to the Logan County Museum Association (LCMA), which to this day manages the collection. It should be noted that, just as the LCHS had done, the LCMA assumes no responsibility for the accuracy the material presented.

Since the publication originated in the 'pre-digital' era, only the later issues made use of this technology, and so creating this digital edition presented a number of challenges. Only nine issues existed as digital publications, either as Microsoft Publisher or Word Perfect files. These had to be carefully edited as major type reflows occurred. Efforts were made to match printed copies as closely as possible, and then PDFs were output. For all other issues, precious little 'camera-ready art' or original material remained, so the only option was to scan existing copies. The guiding principle in this effort was not to try to capture and reproduce an exact image of each page of each publication as one would some historical document like the Declaration of Independence, but to optimize the presentation of the content. Due to the various printing technologies that were used over the years, the quality of the final result was often less than perfect. Pages were scanned in grayscale mode at 600dpi. Care was taken in the editing of each scan to enhance both type and image quality. Type and line drawings were reproduced as 600dpi bitmap files, while photographic images were edited to maximize their density range and were converted to 175dpi grayscale files. In some cases where digital files existed for particular images, they were substituted. All edited files were placed in InDesign documents, and PDFs were output. Optical Character Recognition (OCR) was performed on the PDFs, so that the text is searchable. In addition, all documents were searched for references to corrections that should be made to earlier issues. When these were found, sticky notes were applied to the text in question, detailing the changes to be made.

For more information, or to obtain printed copies of *Wagon Wheels*, contact:

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FALL 1986

Logan County Historical Society

WAGON WHEELS



PARIS HIGH SCHOOL 1909 - 1929

Volume 6

No. 3



WOMEN OF LOGAN COUNTY

DEDICATION

The Logan County Historical Society respectfully dedicates this Arkansas Sesquicentennial Issue of WAGON WHEELS to all of the women of Logan County who have made outstanding contributions to the progress and development of the county as homemakers, volunteers and working women.

Acknowledgements

Material included in this issue is presented as a representation of the many contributions women of Logan County have made. It is by no means intended as a full and complete depiction of service by local women. Many stories remain untold because the people who know them have not offered them for publication. As a new resident of Logan County I must depend on the contributions of people familiar with the county history to fill the pages of the WAGON WHEELS. I thank those people who have helped with this issue and request others to send in ideas, stories, or pictures for inclusion in future issues.

THE LOGAN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Quarterly Publication

WAGON WHEELS

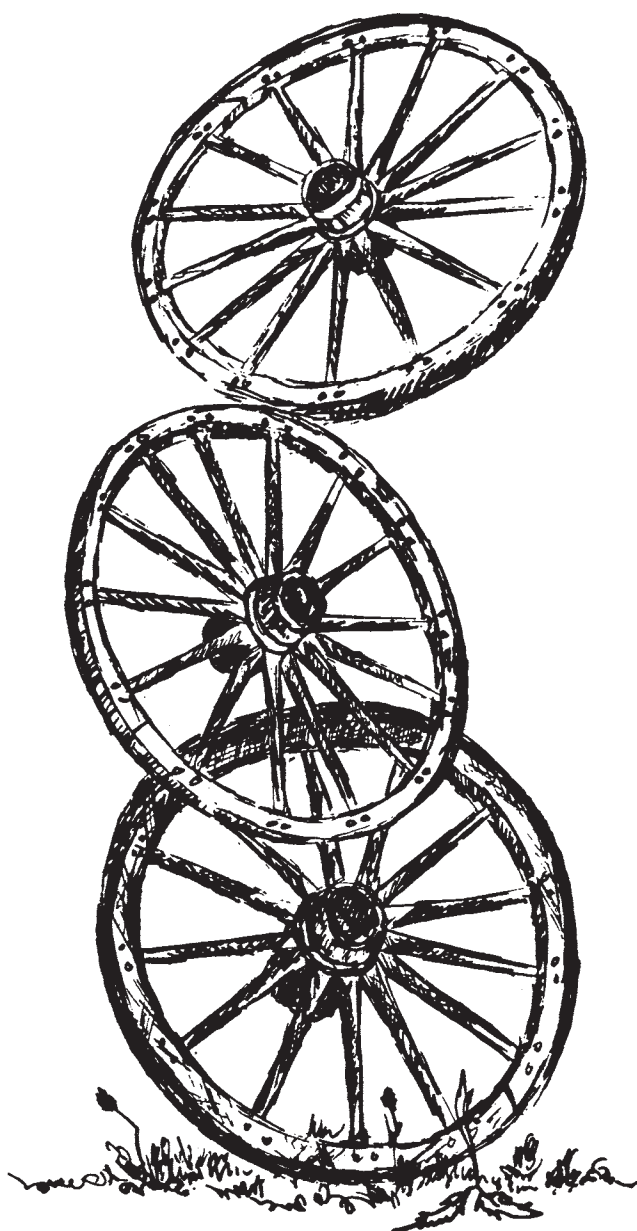
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PARIS SCHOOLS DURING THE PAST 100 YEARS
The 3 R's and the Hickory Stick

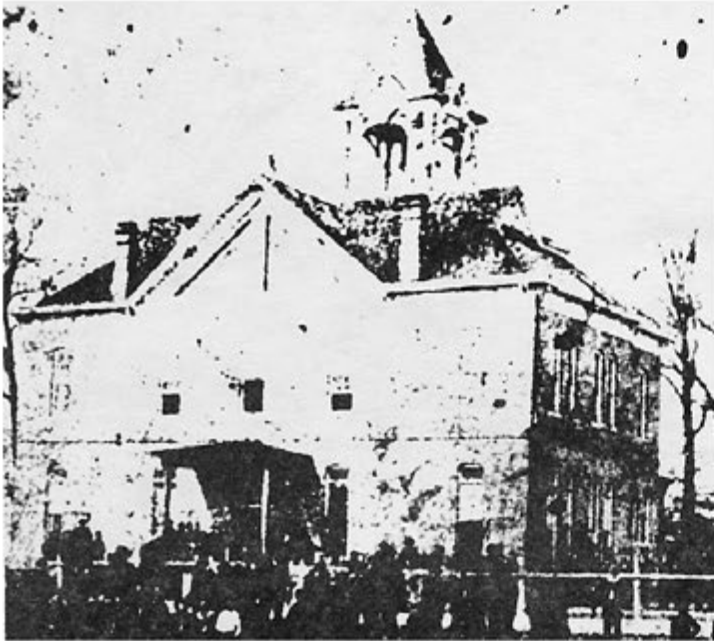
Long before computers, counselors and chaos, there were schools operating in Logan County. Between 1865 and 1885 there were many schools scattered throughout the area.

The Paris Academy was the forerunner of the Paris public school system. It was built in 1885 on the present location of the North Logan County Memorial Hospital on East Academy Street. The cost of the two-story brick structure was \$12,000. It was one of the 26 schools accredited by the University of Arkansas. Many of its graduates were successful business and civic leaders of this region. In 1909 the Academy became a part of the public school system.

A new high school was erected in 1909 on North 10th Street at a cost of \$30,000. Then in 1929, widespread school consolidations made it necessary to build a large annex to accommodate the many additional students from the rural school.

The old Paris Academy was demolished in 1926 and a modern grade school was built at that site. This remained until destroyed by fire in 1971.

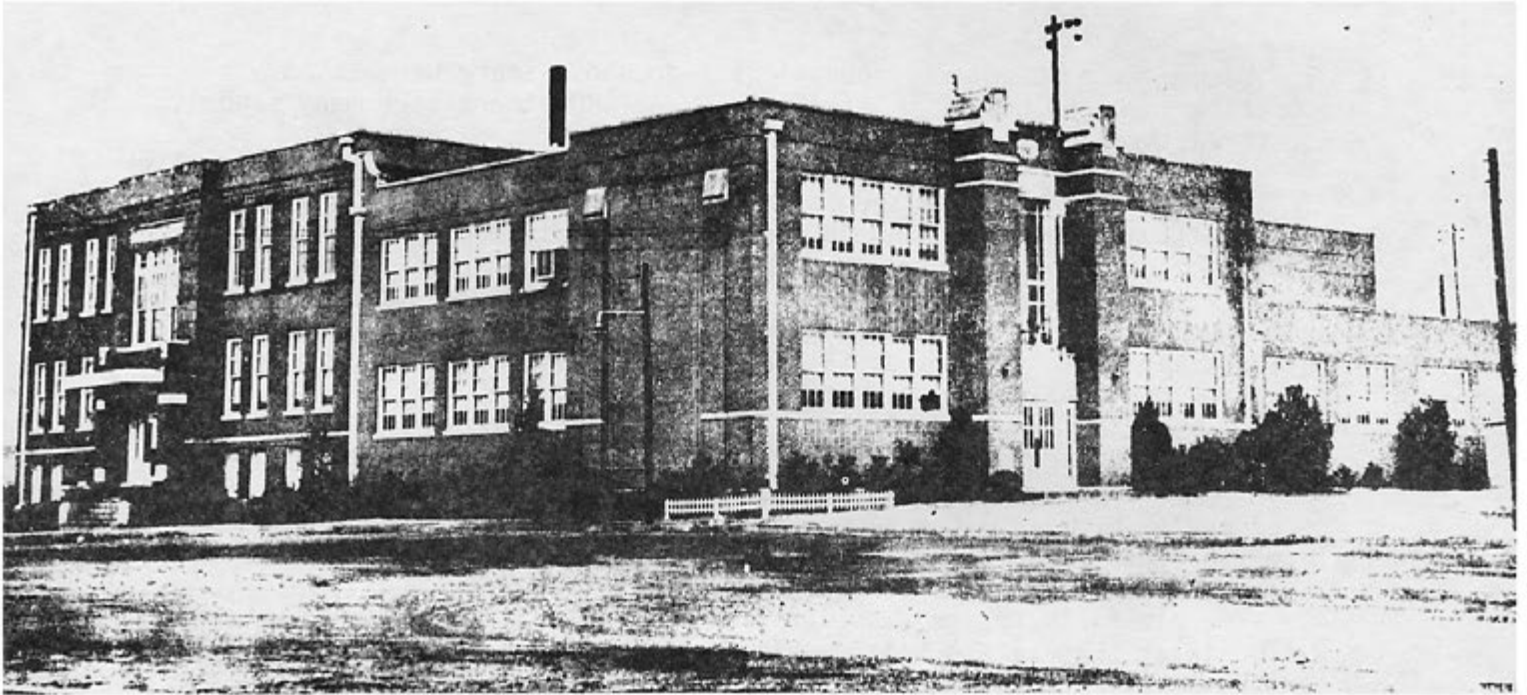
It was during World War I, that the established 4-year high school and Superintendent Will S. Morgan came to Paris. During his thirty years of leadership, Paris became a member of the Southern Association of secondary schools, and later gained accreditation with the North Central Association with an "A" rating.



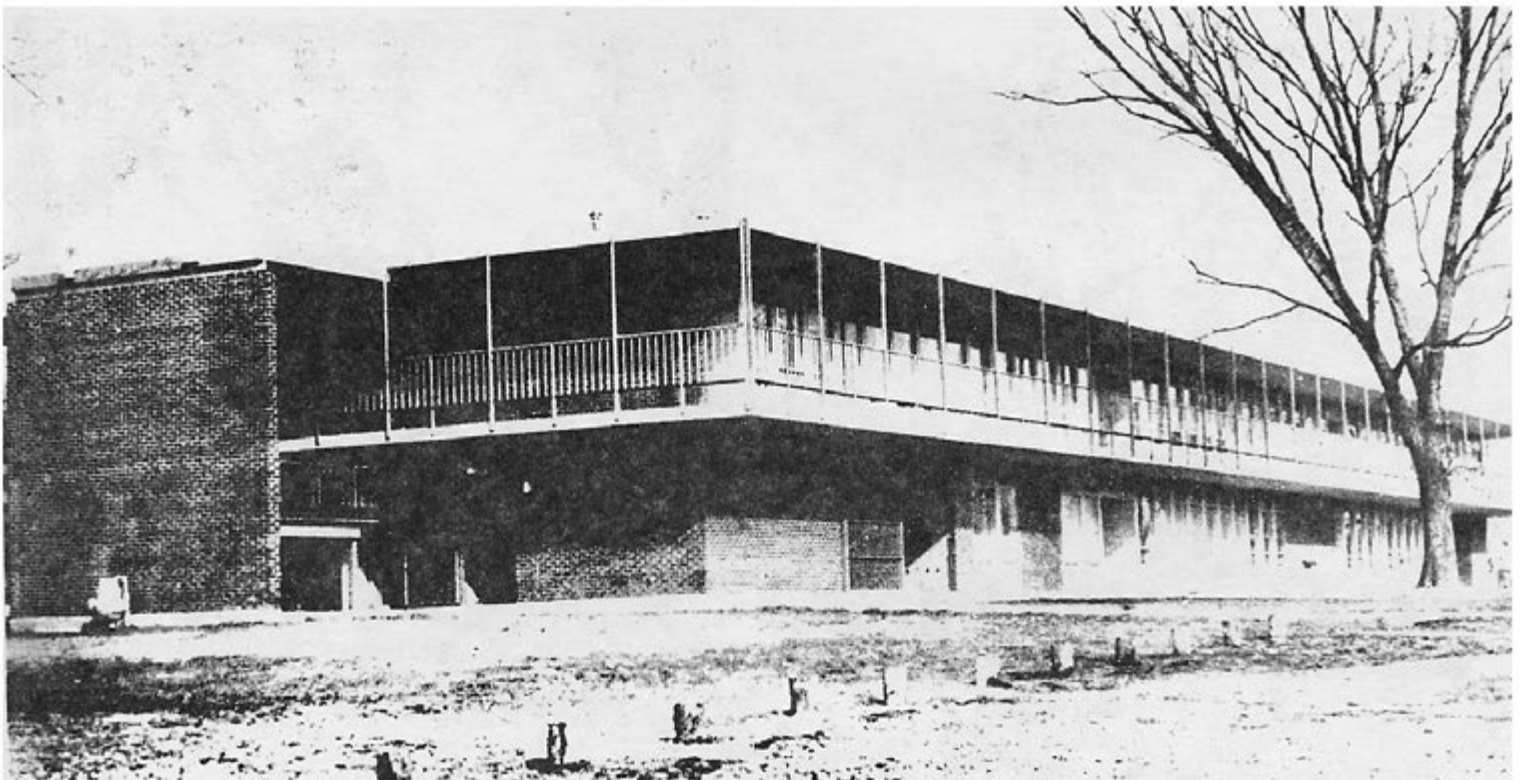
Old Academy



Graduating Class of 1896-97



School with annex built in 1929-30



Present High School, built in 1962-63

WOMEN OF LOGAN COUNTY

Throughout the years, women in Logan County have made outstanding contributions to the progress and development of the County. With great courage, boundless energy, and sheer determination, these women have been committed to providing a better way of life for their families and members of their communities. Their accomplishments have too often gone unrecognized and been taken for granted. Yet, these women have not sought recognition or reward. Their greatest reward has been to see sons and daughters grow up to be worthy citizens with families of their own.

These women have been first and foremost homemakers - wives and mothers who were totally dedicated to providing for the well being and comfort of their families. Year in and year out, three meals a day were placed upon the table to feed hungry families. Thousands of children have been sent off to school wearing clothes that their mothers made. Many a child has slept warmly through cold winter nights snuggled down in a feather mattress and covered with quilts fashioned stitch by stitch by mother. Weary husbands have come home from a hard day's work to be greeted by a sympathetic wife who was just as tired from a long day of cooking meals, tending gardens, canning food, washing and ironing clothes, sewing, and other chores. Always the comfort and well being of the family was placed before her own needs.

In addition to the household chores, these women have worked long hours to supplement the family income. In years gone by, they worked in the fields helping with the planting and harvesting of crops. They took their children along, leaving them in the shade of a tree while working in the field. Other women have assisted in the family business. Children were taken to the store and cared for in between the business duties. Some women have become the sole support of families. They have operated farms and businesses; worked in stores, offices, and factories; held positions of responsibility in business enterprises, schools and institutions. Their accomplishments at work not only served to bolster the family income, but also contributed greatly to the economic development of the county.

Women of Logan County have been actively involved in social, educational, and political life of their communities. For years these women could not vote; yet their impact was felt in every political race. Any person who has held office in Logan County can give strong testimony as to the political influence of women in the county. No one can estimate the number of pies, cakes, box lunches, and dinners that have been prepared by women in this county to aid churches, schools, and other community projects. Libraries and recreational facilities have been established through the instigation and support of groups of women working together. Every community in the county has been enhanced through projects supported by women of the community.

As Logan County celebrates its heritage through its participation in the Arkansas Sesquicentennial Celebration, a special tribute is offered to the women of Logan County. Through the dedication, devotion, and accomplishments of these women, Logan County is a good place to live. These hundreds of good women richly deserve a place of honor in the history of Logan County.



YOUR SONG

You sang it, and
When I think of it
It will always
Be your song
Because when you
Sang it, you had to
Say something so
Important
That you left some
Of yourself in the
Music and made
It your own.

Written by Christa Casada

(Editors Note: Christa Casada, the daughter of Bruce and Judy Casada, is an eighth grade student at Booneville Junior High School.)

MRS. EIKLEBERRY

A LOGAN COUNTY RURAL TEACHER OF THE 1920s AND 1930s

by
Catherine Eikleberry Rogers



Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Eikleberry
1940s

A combination of courage, pride, bravery, determination, and hard work has brought Arkansas to her 150th birthday. A Logan County teacher who possessed all these qualities was Mrs. Eikleberry, as she was fondly known. The name Eikleberry was unique because only one family in Logan County, and for years in the state, carried that name. I know. I am her daughter.

Mother taught as a girl in Illinois, her native state. Dad was a telegraph operator and depot agent. They came to Arkansas in 1904 to follow his occupation.

Over a period of years, Mother taught in several different one and two room rural schools. Rarely did she live near the school. She enjoyed walking, and to her, roads to school were not long. A distance of two or three miles was close by. She taught at Ellsworth, Lone Star, St. Louis, Lonesome Valley, Mt. Carmel, Corley, Pine Grove, Rich Mountain Special, and Liberty. She lived on Huckleberry Mountain when she first taught at St. Louis and walked DOWN the mountain. Later she lived in the valley and walked UP Rich Mountain to teach at Pine Grove.

In 1921 we moved to Sorghum Holler. No one said Hollow. There was no school there. There was no community building for a school or church. Mother walked the rocky valley roads and visited homes.

"We need a church and school in this valley," it was agreed.

"Where can we have school and church?" was asked.

Mother had an answer. "We can meet in one of those old empty saw mill shacks."

There had previously been a saw mill in the valley. When the mill moved, the shacks which had housed the workers were abandoned. The shack is usually one room thrown together any old fashion from slabs, discarded planks, and unsaleable lumber. Large cracks are in the floor and there are no windows, just openings with make-do shutters.

Mother carried a petition to the families. They willingly signed and recorded the number of school age children of the home. The petition was presented to proper officials at Paris. A school district was established in Sorghum Holler with more than 40 children to attend. That was the Lonesome Valley District.

The first term was in the mill shack. A lady came and took a picture of the children but she thought her camera too small to capture the entire group. She made two pictures. Soon plans were underway to build a community building. Men donated trees for timber. Women donated hens to sell to buy nails. Mother took the students over the ridge to pick cotton on Saturdays. She put on a three act play. She organized a pie supper. All proceeds went into the building fund. The community cooperated under her leadership. The next term of school was in a new building.

Ellsworth was a two room school. When Mother and Mrs. Maggie Hixson signed contracts there in 1924, they weighed at the Ellsworth store. One weighed 98 and the other 102. Those 200 pounds made their mark on the Ellsworth Community for the terms of 1924, 1925, and 1926. Some names on those rolls were Scudder, McDaniel, Balkman, Bingaman, Wright, Sanders, Cotton, Dean, Davis, Turner, Lile, Freeman, Trusty, White and Hixson. The rolls included my brother Robert and me and many others.

Recently at a gathering I saw some of those students who are now senior citizens. What do you think they talked about? Their grandchildren? Their aches and pains? No! They talked about my mother. "The best teacher in the world," they said.

In early years would-be teachers took examinations for a teacher's license. A college degree was not necessary. Mother always made a first grade certificate, the top one. In later years she did take some college work.

Usually rural school taught the first through the eighth grades. Mother taught any grade level a student needed. In the 1930s geometry became a popular high school subject. Mother had never had geometry. She got a text book and she and some students learned geometry from scratch. Some of those students went on to college with only a one room school background.

I might add that to the best of my remembrance, the lowest salary of Mother's was \$30.00 per month and in Logan County the highest was \$100.00 per month. Of course, she built her own fires at school and swept the floors. All schools had wood or coal heat.

To say that Mrs. Eikleberry enjoyed teaching is putting it lightly. She radiated to her students her vim and vigor by her enthusiasm.



LONESOME VALLEY SCHOOL



The photo at the left was taken in 1921 by a woman who thought her camera too small to take a group picture of the entire school. This photo is one of two taken that day. The building in the background is the saw mill shack that was used as the school building.

The photo at the right was taken in 1929. This group is standing in front of the new building.

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Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Eikleberry were the parents of four children. Three of these were teachers and retired from the profession after 30 years each spent in the classroom. Murrell Eikleberry taught in the agriculture department of Dardanelle High School. Ardell Eikleberry, now deceased, taught in the agriculture department of Magazine High School and also taught school at Scranton for several years. Robert Eikleberry, now deceased, was employed by the Soil Conservation Service and once served as national president. Catherine Eikleberry Rogers, who now resides in Alma, Arkansas, taught in the English department of Danville High School. She is now retired and the author of seven books.

FROM "MOMENTS OF MT. MAGAZINE"

by Catherine Eikleberry Rogers

The trail down Huckleberry Mountain was steep and rough. The home of my mother, Mrs. J. A. Eikleberry, was on Huckleberry Mt., a part of the Mt. Magazine Range in Logan County, Arkansas. She walked a two and one-half mile trail each morning to teach the one-room school in the valley as she had walked the trails in Logan and Yell Counties for many years to rural schools.

This Monday in 1934 found the little 125 pound, 50 year old lady eager to get to school to build a fire in the wood stove and have the room at least a bit comfortable before children arrived. In Depression Days of the 30's many children walked four or five miles to school over frozen muddy roads. Their shoes were sometimes very worn and coats were thin and tattered.

The depression years were a time when the housing shortage hit rural Arkansas as it hit all America. As Mother rounded the curve approaching the Lonesome Valley School, she saw a strip-down T-Model car, which had been converted into a truck, parked by the school. There was smoke coming from the chimney.

"Now, who could this be?" she asked herself.

She opened the door and was greeted by a shy, embarrassed family; a man, woman, two children and a grandmother. They had literally moved into the building. Their possessions, an iron bedstead, a cot, a few pots and pans and dishes, and several pasteboard boxes were neatly arranged in the back of the room. The man hastened to explain that he was out of work and in their search of employment, they came by the school house. A roof over head, a floor under foot, and a wood burning stove represented a haven of comfort. The wife was "about to be down" explained the concerned husband and he did not want her sleeping in the cold truck.

Mother was a compassionate person and assured them that they would not be turned out into the cold. She advised them that school must go on. The family promised to cooperate in every way as to keeping the two small ones quiet and not interfering with school.

For several days the man carried water, attended the fire, and even cut and hauled some wood from the hillside. Grandma took the little ones outside when the weather permitted. "Books" went on up front.

Mother noticed the meager supply of food that was cooked on the stove. She brought dry beans and peas and turnips and greens from her home and shared. She just happened to have some articles of clothing and some bedding which she no longer needed and these she carried down to the family. The man, wife, and grandmother often listened intently as classes were recited. At recess they asked questions about history, arithmetic, and stories they heard as the students and mother continued their daily learning. One day Grandma said, "I hope we soon find work but I'm learning things I never heard before and I kinda hate to move on."

Mother was always a teacher who thought it was her duty as well as her pleasure to get to school before the students arrived. She held to the idea that it was better to be in the room and keep confusion down than to cure it after students had a conflict.

One morning as she reached the school early, she saw that the grandmother was fixing to deliver the baby. Mother dashed back up the trail in the direction she knew the children would soon appear. She met them and explained to the oldest of the group that students were to stay there and play until she rang the bell. Then she hurried back where she was needed most.

Mother was a versatile person. She had often helped with "birthing a baby". She did not consider the talent of mid-wifery was among her list of talents. After that day, she could have included this. Her experience in that field had never been as involved as in the little school house with the barest of facilities.

By the time the mother was able to travel, the husband had found work at a saw mill in another community. The family of six were ready to move on. The school children hated to see the old truck loaded and take "our baby" and leave. The vehicle rattled out of the school yard with waves of good bye and even some tears.

The Depression Days were equal to no other time. The dedicated teacher who walked the mountain trails met and over came problems which could have defeated one of lesser courage.

The accounts of kids going barefoot to school much of the year are not related just to add spice to a hardship story. In times of economic stress this was often the case. At the Lonesome Valley School some of the students did not have shoes until far into the cold months. Mother put flat rocks, about brick size, on the stove. When barefoot children got to school, she wrapped these rocks in newspaper, put them on the floor, and bare feet were warmed as minds were stimulated with learning.

Bluffs and cliffs over Arkansas hills have names to suit the geography, or to fit an incident of there, or perhaps to suit the whim of the beholder. There are as many "Lover's Leaps" as there are mountains. One bluff my parents knew had the unique name of Buzzard Rock.

Mother walked down the northwest side of Huckleberry Mt. to teach a little school called St. Louis. (I never knew how that school got that title.) To reach the school from her home was a four mile walk one way or a three mile walk via Buzzard Rock. That sheer cliff of about 18 perpendicular feet, was made for a buzzard rookery, and not a pathway to anywhere. About 12 feet of the precipice had projections and ledges which could be used as steps to scale the bluff. The other six feet were just plain straight impossible rock.

Mother looked the situation over and came to a decision. "I don't want to walk four miles when there is a shorter way. A six foot ladder could be put right here. I can get down to the ladder then use it for the impossible part."

Dad made a sturdy wooden ladder and carried it to Buzzard Rock.

"One mile each way is no distance for me to consider," Mother said. "What concerns me is that walking an extra 40 miles each month is taking my time which I need for something else." Yes, she was always looking forward to the next project.

That year was 1920-1921 school year. Another hazard of that walk to school was the crossing of Shoal Creek at the foot of the mountain. In early fall when little water was in the creek, a nimble step from stone to stone was all that was necessary. In the rainy season Shoal Creek could be a roaring torrent. A big tree was felled and served as a foot log. Mother could almost dance across the stream on that log.

"Don't look down at the running water," she advised the school children who walked the log. "That will make you dizzy. Fix your eyes on the opposite side and be careful where you put your foot." Fortunately no one fell in.

In the summer of 1924 Dad rented some land on Shoal Creek to make a crop. The only house we could find near the land was a three room shack. To even call that house a shack is a flattering exaggeration. There were no screens and our income was not sufficient to buy screen wire. My folks ordered mosquito bar cloth and tacked this over the windows. Frames were made for doors and the mosquito bar was tacked over these. (To anyone who is not familiar with mosquito bar, this is a thin gauze-like cotton material.) This may not have kept out all flying insects, but it certainly discouraged many. At least none of our family took the dreaded disease of typhoid fever which was a common ailment carried by flies and we did not have chills and malaria fever carried by mosquitoes. Some of our less industrious neighbors had to suffer these maladies.

The floors of that shack were made of not too smooth planks. There were some cracks in one room through which the chickens under the floor might have been counted. We had no floor coverings such as linoleum or rugs. Mother had a remedy for that. She and I, age ten, took wood shingles, shoved them down into the cracks, then with a drawknife we sliced the shingle even with the floor. I did not know at that time how terrible that house was because our friends and neighbors were living in similar conditions.

WOMEN OF THE 1920s

The plight of the working women who must combine work, home, and children is a never ending subject for television talk shows, magazines, books, newspapers, and just discussions.

But is it a new problem on the American scene? Well, maybe not. A trip down memory lane to a small rural town called Booneville, Arkansas, some sixty years ago has led us to think, not so.

Here we found 20 women who worked full time in business helping to create a better economic climate and leaving their mark on the town. They were not women who just "made coffee" but full fledged business people. Some were in business with their husbands, some owned their own business, and some had highly placed positions, such as bank president.

Most were part of families, raising children, attending church with its activities, taking part in the children's school activities, making costumes, attending football games, and always doing their part to improve the town.

What happened to the children who grew up with these working mothers in the 1920s? They are now grandparents and great grandparents. None have ever been Governor of Arkansas but neither has any of the group been in jail. They have just made good citizens.

The memory cannot end without a salute to the 1920 Booneville businessmen. They did not feel threatened. They encouraged and helped. With this unique partnership of men and women, they left their mark for future generations to help make Booneville that "Good Hometown".

The women were:

Maude Adney, Fashion Shop owner	Eunice Adney, Fashion Shop
Sally Bryant, Photo Shop	Tinnie Bryant, Photo Shop
Ada Burkholder, Mgr. Telephone Company	Mattie Edwards, Pres. Citizens Bank
Rose Edwards, Beauty Shop owner	Ora Elkins, Pharmacist
Nell Stanfill Foster, Cafe Owner	Grace Gatlin, Pharmacist and owner Gatlin Drug Store
Era Grau, Partner in the Famous Store	Louise Hampton, Partner, Booneville Democrat
Bess Bailey Griffey, Telephone Company	Rose Wooten, Telephone Company
Edna Pike, Restaurant owner	Minnie Yates, Milliner Shop
Mama Yates, Milliner Shop	Yarborough, Racket Store
Edith Roberts, Insurance	
Bangs, Dress Shop	

LOUISE BELLE HAMPTON

Submitted by her daughters
Juanita "Skeet" Poole
Dorothy Ellen Zachariah



Louise Belle Hampton
1890 - 1983

She was called Mrs. Hamp or just plain Hamp up and down the streets of Booneville for the 45 years she was part of the business community. Louise Hampton made her contribution to the community as a help mate to her husband Max in publishing the Booneville Democrat, a weekly newspaper started by her father-in-law in 1899.

Being one of the first local women to work in public, it was a destiny not planned. Her first taste of the printing business came in 1915 while her husband was doing military duty. This part time work was to prepare her for things to come. When her husband became seriously ill in 1923, Hamp took over the helm of the business. A year later when Max was able to start working a few hours a day, the partnership fell into place.

Louise was the reporter, sold advertising, did the collecting, made up the paper and ran the presses. In an emergency she was a pretty good mechanic. The linotype, in those days the pride of a weekly, was strictly Max's baby.

In the days before the Chamber of Commerce, radio or TV, the newspaper was the first place visitors, politicians, and newcomers came. She and Max had the opportunity to be good public relations people for Booneville. Both shared the vision of having a newspaper that would help make the Booneville area a better place to live.

Mrs. Hamp was born Louise Belle Freemyer in 1890 at Independence, Missouri. The family moved to Hot Springs, Arkansas, when she was four years old. At 14 she moved to Little Rock to attend school and live with her brother who was attending medical school. It was in Little Rock where she met and married Max Hampton in 1908. She was the mother of three children: Lester "Buddy" Hampton, Dorothy Ellen Zachariah and Juanita "Skeet" Poole. She, with her husband, instilled good values in her children. She taught them manners and respect along with work in the printing business as a means of earning a living. Higher education was a must. She was never too busy to stop and listen to the needs of her growing children.

Booneville during those years was a community on the way up, and Mrs. Hamp contributed to the town's growth with her activities. She was one of the early members of the Chamber of Commerce. She was a member of the First Methodist Church and taught Sunday School in the junior department for 12 years. She was the activity member of the town's Christian Goodfellows. She was a charter member and president of the Booneville Business and Professional Women's Club and served as state editor of the B&PW magazine for three years. She was the assistant chairman when Max was state chairman of the Farm Family of the Year, an activity which took Max and Mrs. Hamp to visit every county and newspaper in the state. She was a member of the Arkansas Press Association and a member and president of the Arkansas Women's Press Association. She was also a member and president of the Booneville Hospital Auxiliary. As a writer once said of Mrs. Hamp, "You'll find Mrs. Max Hampton in just about every civic activity that comes along in Booneville."

She loved the people in the Booneville area and enjoyed to the fullest being a member of the Booneville community.

In 1968, the Booneville Democrat was sold to Donrey Media. On Valentine's Day of the next year, Manual Mann, editor of the Booneville Democrat and the staff dedicated that edition of the Democrat to a sweetheart, Mrs. Louise Hampton.

BENEDICTINE WOMEN HAVE ROOTS IN LOGAN COUNTY

by

Sister Pierre Vorster

The Benedictine Women of St. Scholastica Convent, Fort Smith, were well rooted in the rocky arid land of Shoal Creek, Logan County, Arkansas, in 1878 when Rutherford B. Hayes was President of the United States and William R. Miller was the Governor of Arkansas.

W. D. Slack, Land Commissioner, and Anthony Hellmich, land agent for the Cairo and Fulton Railroad Company, a branch of the Fort Smith and Little Rock Railroad, had persuaded Bishop Edward Fitzgerald of the Diocese of Little Rock to find missionaries to come to Arkansas to foster the spiritual growth and education of the German Catholic immigrants settling along the railroad.

The Bishop sent an invitation to the Superior of Immaculate Conception Convent in Ferdinand, Indiana. The Ferdinand Community, itself only a dozen years old with 34 members, sent Sisters Xaveria Schroeder, Josepha Schmidt, Isidora Luebberman, and Bonaventura Wagner.

After a long trip with few provisions, these Sisters crossed from Spadra to Morrison's Bluff on the ferry and arrived in Logan County September 16, 1878. Their account of the trip to New Subiaco Abbey was one of jolting over rough, rocky, stump-studded roads in a wagon. They did not see a single person in the sparsely populated area. They did see a few razorbacks and described them as being "so lean and lank that a breath would blow them over".

The monks of Subiaco, who had arrived some months earlier, gave up their small home temporarily for the Sisters. That fall the first parochial school in Logan County was opened in Creole, now Subiaco, with Sisters Xaveria and Josepha as teachers.

In the meantime, about 12 miles east of Subiaco, Joseph D. Neihouse and Eberhard Schneider supervised volunteers from the parish who built a four-room convent-school in Shoal Creek. This 101.76 acres of land was the chosen spot donated to the Sisters by the railroad company along with \$2,500. One stipulation had been that one of the four rooms would house the school. The other three rooms became the nucleus of St. Scholastica Convent, the motherhouse for the Benedictine women of Arkansas. Sisters Isidora and Bonaventura moved into this building and opened the first school in Shoal Creek in 1879.

Physical poverty accompanied spiritual poverty during those early days. The first winter the Sisters slept on the floor. Their unvaried diet consisted of cornbread, beans, and molasses. Without a resident priest they were not able to attend daily Mass and receive the Sacraments.

When school was out the Sisters from Creole (Subiaco) joined the Shoal Creek Sisters. Here they cut wood and cleared the land so that they could grow food to eat. They also rented some of the cleared land to get money to pay their bills. They did needlework for other people also.

January 23, 1879 was the official founding date of the convent for Benedictine women in Logan County. St. Scholastica's became an independent Benedictine motherhouse on May 20, 1887. Mother Meinrada Lex was elected the first

prioress Superior of a Benedictine Convent. On September 28, 1896, the state recognized the convent's viability with a Charter of Incorporation filed in the Logan County Courthouse.

Although it had to be a call from God for anyone to join these courageous self sacrificing women who had nothing to offer except hunger, hard work, insecurity, and prayer, young girls did ask to join the Sisters in their work.

In the spring of 1882, Christina Schuler (Sister Scholastica) and Apollonia Ehalt (Mother Agatha) of Fort Smith and Katharina Hawerott (Sister Walburga) of Shoal Creek were the first three candidates to enter the order.

As other young women came to join the Benedictine women in Shoal Creek, more room was needed. Building materials had to come from Little Rock by river to Shoal Creek Landing. In 1883 Joseph Neihouse constructed, plastered, and painted a 24' by 32' building for \$600.

As education was the primary work of the Sisters, a boarding school for higher education, known as "Institute of St. Scholastica", was opened there in 1833. Despite building additions made in 1883, 1886, 1890, 1894, and 1898, the boarding section had to be moved out of the convent to make room for young women who wished to take on the work of these early Benedictine women.

The motto of St. Benedict is "Ora et Labora" (Prayer and Work). Although work was necessary to survive, prayer was not neglected. The Sisters began saying the Little Office of the Blessed Virgin October 19, 1883, with seven Sisters and candidates. This practice of saying the Psalms daily is continued down to the present day along with manual labor.

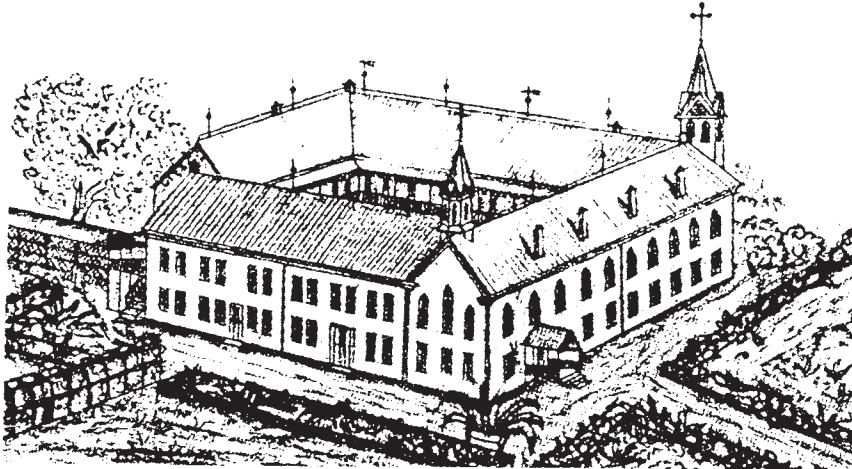


The first three candidates to the Shoal Creek community are pictured here with the prioress on the occasion of their Golden Jubilee in 1933. Left to right, Sisters Walburga Hawerott, Scholastica Schuler, Mother Perpetua Gerard, prioress, and Mother Agatha Ehalt. The picture was taken in Boonville, Missouri.



MOTHER MEINRADA LEX, O.S.B.
First Prioress
1887-1908

Although young girls from the area were joining the Sisters in their work and prayer, there were never enough Sisters to meet the demand or request for schools. Immigrants accustomed to European education wanted the same for their children in this country. The Sisters taught for a pittance, eeking out a scant living the same as the impoverished families they served. They were courageous, self-sacrificing, and



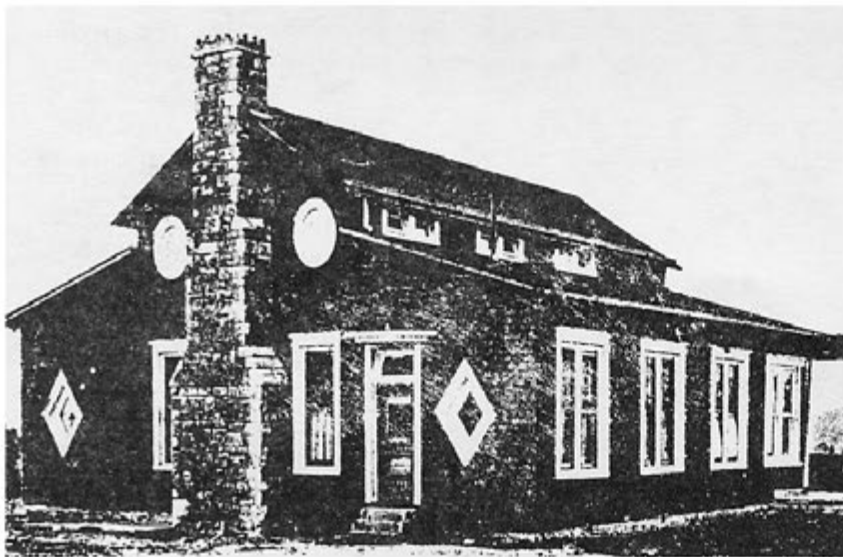
1898 — The completed St. Scholastica Convent in Shoal Creek. It served as the Sisters' home until 1925 when the community moved to Fort Smith. Fire destroyed the original motherhouse in 1940.

devoted to their work in a vast missionary country. Due to the lack of space and funds, Bishop Fitzgerald, in 1885, suggested that no more candidates be allowed to enter.

Mother Meinrada tried to find some means, other than teaching, to make a living. She suggested to the Bishop that they start a Home for Orphans. It was not until 1907 that Bishop John B. Morris gave permission for such an undertaking. However, he said, "There will be no

salary as such. God will reward you". This orphanage was opened in North Little Rock. Sisters received their room and Board. Today St. Joseph's is no longer an orphanage, but is still being operated by the Benedictine Women as St. Joseph's Home, a day care for children. In 1902 the Sisters began work in the Subiaco Abbey kitchen.

Mother Meinrada and Sister Bridget Tencleve went to Switzerland, Bavaria, and Germany in 1909 to recruit women to serve as missionary women in the Arkansas wilderness. Sister Petronilla Zehnder, who celebrated her 75th year of Religious Profession June 17, 1986, was a member of this group. She remembers well getting the necessary permissions and passes to go to Arkansas with Mother Meinrada. She left her homeland of Switzerland on her 17th birthday.



St. Scholastica Infirmary constructed in 1908.

At Shoal Creek the Sisters fell prey to the illnesses of the time. Much sickness was caused by impure drinking water. Some of the illnesses that struck the Sisters were malaria, typhoid, tuberculosis, and the usual flu. In 1908 Mother Agatha built St. Scholastica's Infirmary where the sick Sisters could have a view of the mountains to the south. After the 1940 fire this building became the home for the Sisters still stationed at Shoal Creek. Today it is part of the Hesychia House of Prayer.

The Benedictine women of Shoal Creek founded and staffed the following schools in Logan County, in most cases they were the only staff: St. Benedict's at Creole, 1878; St. Scholastica's, Shoal Creek, 1879; St. Joseph's, Paris, 1889; St. Anne's, Carbon City, 1890; Sts. Peter and Paul, Morrison Bluff, 1893; St. Meinrad's, Prairie View, 1893; St. Anthony's, Ratcliff, 1903; and St. Ignatius,

Scranton, 1912. Today the Sisters remain at the Hesychia House of Prayer, Shoal Creek; St. Benedict's Parish, Subiaco; St. Joseph's School, Paris; and in the Scranton Public School System and parish work in Sts. Peter and Paul Parish and St. Ignatius Parish.

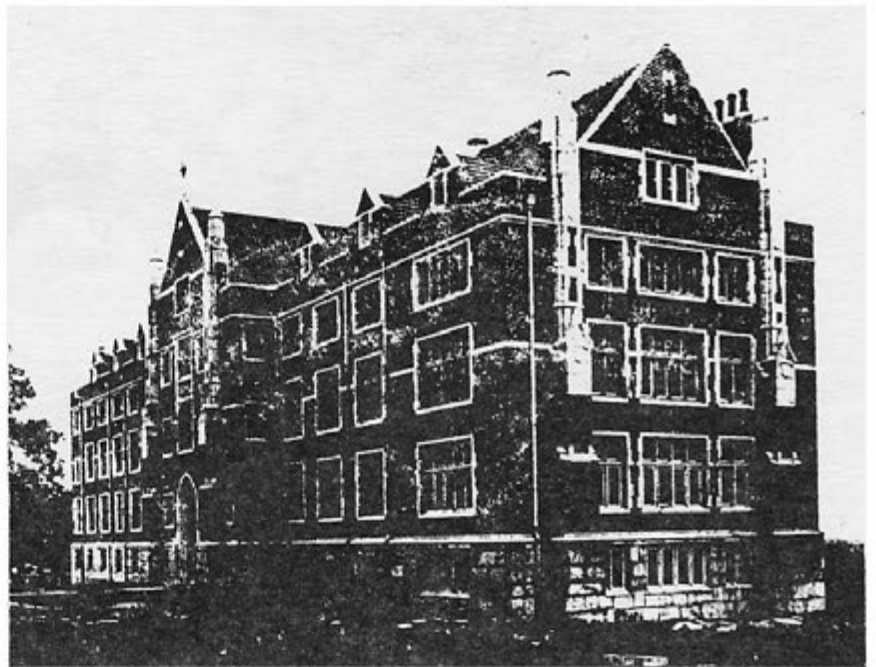
Stories have been recalled, remembered, and passed down. Some of these include making the trip on the Arkansas Central, crossing the Arkansas River on the ferry at Morrison's Bluff, riding the mailhack to Scranton from various points, and asking Ben Borgerding to take them in his buggy or wagon to Shoal Creek. Many remember the picnicking on Potato Hill, carrying tubs of food and pots of coffee up the hill, and then having a battle with the ants. Sister Florentine Frederick of Bluff even today talks of holding out a limb in Shoal Creek to help rescue Sister Hermana Randell who had gotten into quicksand during one of the picnics on Shoal Creek. Sister Alexis Fritz of Paris learned how to drive the first convent car in 1920. Sisters Louis Zink, born 1889, and Gregory Kehres, born 1891, both of Subiaco and still living at the Convent in Fort Smith, have many recollections of the early struggles of the settlers as well as those of the Sisters.

With the increasing number of women coming to Shoal Creek came the need for more and more space. When the Sisters were out of school, they came to the motherhouse to help with the work, for retreat, and to further their own education as they had to have a license to teach. The dormitories were crowded. By 1913 the membership had outgrown the existing buildings. With a dream of someday constructing a rock building at Shoal Creek, the Sisters hewed rock from their own property. However, there were no funds for such an adventure. Mother Agatha reluctantly allowed Sister Raphael Arts and a companion to go on a begging tour for funds to meet this need. World War I put an end to the thought of any building, but by 1922, Bishop Morris gave permission to begin excavation for a new building.

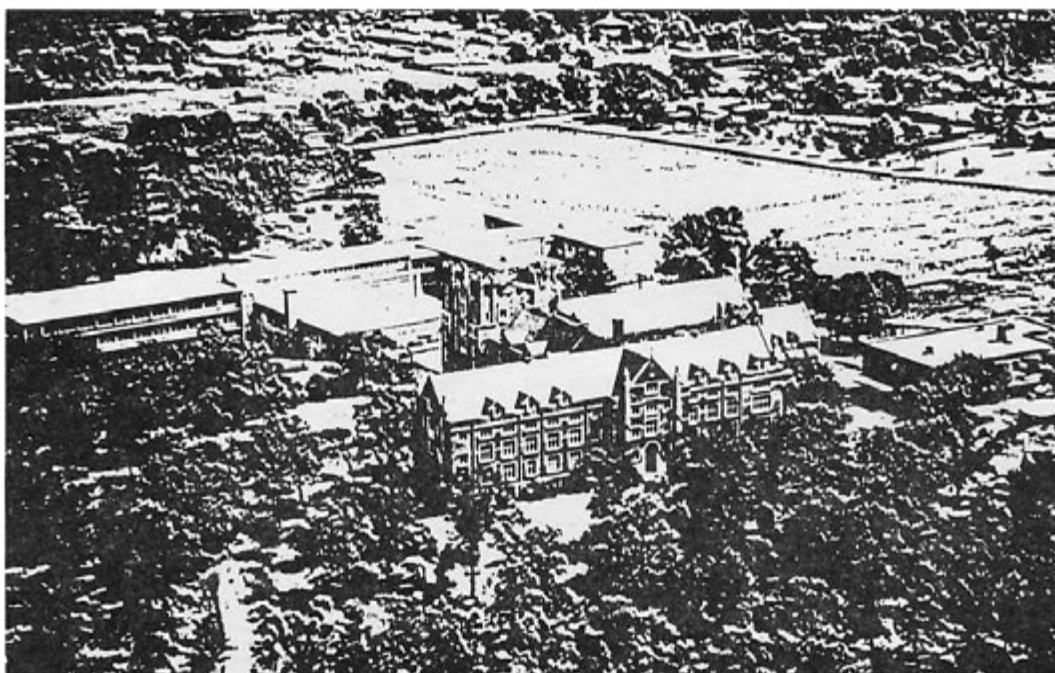
However, many Sisters began questioning the wisdom of building at Shoal Creek. The area was isolated, travel was difficult, water scarce, health care lacking, so on August 15, 1922, the membership voted to build in Fort Smith.

Bishop Morris opposed this move, according to Sisters Celestine Uptmoor and Joseph Hofrichter, until his own car got stuck in the mud on one of his visits to the Convent. The car was so embedded that all, including the Bishop, had to push. This was the 'final push' according to the Sisters, that led to a change of heart on the part of the Bishop. Negotiations then began for the purchase of property in Fort Smith after other sites had been considered.

On September 14, 1924, the first unit of St. Scholastica Convent on Rogers Avenue and Free Ferry was



This first wing, facing south, of a proposed three-part convent in Fort Smith was dedicated Sept. 14, 1924.



St. Scholastica Convent
Ft. Smith, Arkansas

dedicated. St. Joseph Academy (formerly St. Scholastica Institute) moved to Fort Smith on September 30, 1924, and was known as St. Scholastica Academy until it closed in 1968. The official date of transfer of the motherhouse from Shoal Creek to Fort Smith was May 17, 1926.

What happened to all of the buildings of the original motherhouse in Shoal Creek? According to one eyewitness, Sister Pierre Vorster, who was teaching at St. Scholastica's in Shoal Creek at the time, they all went up in smoke on November 20, 1940. About noon time, dry grass that was entwined in the wooden south wall of the convent building caught fire and set the convent on fire. From the convent, the fire spread to St. Scholastica Parish Church, the parish school, the rectory and the Convent laundry. As there was no water supply, no telephone, and no fire department, all of the buildings and contents went up in smoke within an hour and a half. Later the parish plant was rebuilt by the parishioners out of native rock. School classes and church services were held in the Catholic Knights Hall until the new buildings were ready.

Although the Benedictine Motherhouse has moved to Fort Smith, the women did not lose sight of Logan County and its needs. Shoal Creek is still considered to be the place of the roots of the Benedictines of Arkansas. Many women answered the call and in some way enriched the lives of the people of Arkansas. One hundred ninety-eight of these women are now dead, while 175 are professed members of St. Scholastica Convent, Fort Smith. Of these, 53 women entered the convent from Logan County. Eighteen of these have died, while 35 are carrying on the motto, "Prayer and Work".

* * * * *

ROOTS OF THE BOSTON STORE

Some businesses become landmarks and their closing is noted by an entire community. This happened Thursday, July 3, 1986 with the closing of the Boston Store in Fort Smith.

Most people in the area hated to see this long time area business close its doors for the last time. Few people realized the business started over a century before in the small towns of Magazine and Witcherville.

In 1879 three adventurers, Aaron Fuller, Julius and Sigmund Baer, struck out for the wilds of Arkansas after working at their first and only jobs in the Boston Store of Chicago. Aaron set up shop in Witcherville, while Julius and Sigmund went "on down the road" to Magazine.

After two years, the three decided to merge resources and relocate at Fort Smith, the "jumping off place to Indian Territory". The move paid off in a store that served many generations in this part of Arkansas.

MEMORIES OF PARIS TEACHERS



WANDA KATE JOHNS KOLSEM - I was born Nov. 5, 1920 in Paris, one of eight children. I am a retired elementary school teacher, having taught for 34 years in the Paris Public School System.

I went through 12 years of schooling in Paris, graduating in May 1938. I enrolled at Arkansas State Teachers College, now ASU, in the fall of 1938 and graduated May 1942 with a Bachelor of Science in Education. I starting teaching the fall of 1942 with a salary of \$75 a month. I taught fourth grade until 1946. I returned to teaching in 1952 and taught fifth grade until my retirement in May 1982.

John Kolsem and I married March 20, 1942. We had two sons, John Henry and Tom Reed. Tom is now deceased.

Many things happened through the years. The fire on September 18, 1971 burned the old grade school building so the fifth and sixth grades went to the Methodist Church for two years. Ironically, I had gone to the Methodist Church the first half of the first grade because the old grade school wasn't completed. While we were in the Methodist Church we became great walkers and great at standing in line. We walked to the Baptist Church for the library and lined up for the restroom and for eating in the church basement. My desk was a cardboard box. If you came into my room, I might have been practically standing on my head to get supplies. That is the year we were allowed to wear slacks to school. I shall never forget the day we walked over to Short Mountain Street with out books in our hands to the new building. The new building was great, but my first love was the old building and grounds, being there as a child and then as a teacher.

This winter was our fifth year in retirement, and as we have a trailer, we spent the winters in Gulfport, Mississippi, Port Aransas, Rockport, San Antonio, TX and Lake Havasu City, AZ. John and I plan to spend next winter in Florida.

My hobbies are handwork, reading and walking. I am an active member of the First Christian Church, Day Circle and Christian Women's Fellowship.

MARY ELLEN WATSON - On a cold, snowy Saturday morning in December in Virden, IL, I was born into the family of Joseph W. and Jane Elizabeth Pendleton Watson. I was the fourth child with one sister and two brothers. Later another son joined the family. When I was about two years old we moved to Paris where I have spent almost all of my life.

My first formal school life was in a small frame building where the First Presbyterian Church is today. I said "formal school" for I had played school during much of my early years. My mother said that I would line up the clothes pins on the window sill and pretend they were in school and I was the teacher even before I was old enough to attend school.



Later I attended school in the old Academy building where the Logan Memorial Hospital is now. When I was in the fourth grade we were moved to the basement of the high school building where it was so cold we sat with our feet on jugs of hot water to keep warm. Finally we were given a room upstairs. After having moved about many times during my days at high school I graduated. After graduation I enrolled in Galloway College where I earned a BA degree. When Galloway was merged with Hendrix, my degree was reissued.

Following graduation, I was employed to teach English and Latin in Paris High School where I remained for six years. I resigned to work for my father for two years after which I taught English and Latin in Mena High School. While I was in Mena our building burned, so we high school people went to school at eight in the morning and were dismissed at 12:30. The grade school children began their day at 12:30 and were dismissed at 4:00. Rush! Rush! Rush! It was quite an experience and lasted for three years until the WPA built the new high school. I was in Mena for 14 years. I came home to be with the family during the serious illness of my mother which lasted for 14 months. My father died just a few weeks after she did. That fall I again found myself teaching a variety of subjects in high school. This time in Paris. The following summer I resumed my "going to school" days at the Arkansas University, preparing myself to be certified a full time librarian. I worked at the job for another 14 years. I retired, but was asked to work three half days in the grade school library. I can't count those as years for I had already retired.

I loved to teach and I have always loved to read and enjoy books, but I missed the close contact with my classroom students.

My life is very full. I am an active member of a number of organizations: charter member of Alpha Theta Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma, P.E.O., Paris Garden Club, three Retired Teachers Chapters, and the First United Methodist Church, a member of the Administrative Board, Methodist women and chairman of a Circle. I wonder how I found time to teach?



EMOGENE TILTON - I received my Bachelor of Science Degree in Education from UCA at Conway and worked on my Masters at the University of Tennessee and Texas Women's University.

I started teaching home economics in Paris the second year the Home Economics Building was open on the high school campus. This building burned and I taught in a mobile building until the present department was built. I helped to design and furnish this department.

Thirty three of the 39 years I taught was in Paris. I retired in 1981.

EUPHIA MC KELVY - I was born at Corley the daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. W. C. McKelvy.

After graduating from Paris High School, I attended Central Baptist College, receiving an Associates Art Degree. Then receiving a BSE Degree from Arkansas Teachers College at Conway. I also attended Ouachita Baptist University at Arkadelphia.

My teaching career began at the Paris Grade School as a fifth grade teacher. I continued in that position for 36 years, retiring in 1966. I am a Life Member of the Arkansas Retired Teachers Association.

I have one brother. I am a member of the Bethel Missionary Baptist Church.



LA VERNE THOMPSON - I was born in Spielerville, north of Subiaco, to Dr. Robert C. Thompson and Martha Lydia Cravens Thompson. I am Delia LaVerne Thompson, one of the 11 children, eight boys and three girls, that composed my family.

I attended first grade at Union. It was a long way from our house. Two brothers and I cut through our neighbor's property to shorten the distance. Even so it was over a mile.

In 1918, we moved to Paris where I enrolled in and later graduated from Paris High School.

After graduation, I attended Christian College, Columbia, Mo. where I graduated with an AA Degree. Christian College was a two-year girls school. Now it is a four-year co-ed college.



Following this I went to summer school at Teacher's College, Conway, to take work in Primary Education. In the fall I started teaching first grade in Paris Grade School. I would teach nine months and go to summer school to earn more credits toward a degree. For six years I taught first grade then moved to third grade which I taught for 35 years. A total of 41 years in the same place and in the same building. In the meantime I graduated from Teacher's College, now University of Central Arkansas, in 1943 with a BSE Degree.

While I was teaching and since retirement, I have belonged to Arkansas Teachers Association, Business and Professional Women's Organization, Paris Garden Club, Past Matron of Eastern Star, Delta Kappa Gamma Alpha Theta Chapter, an active member of First United Methodist Church, choir and Guild Circle and Logan County Retired Teachers Association.

I crochet, knit, tat, and do different kinds of arts and crafts. I enjoy oil painting but prefer china painting so spend my time china painting.

When I was a small child and friends came to play, I always said "lets play school and let me be the teacher". Guess you might say my childhood dream came true. Not once was I ever sorry I became a teacher.

ELIZABETH "BABE" HAMPTON HOUSER - I was the youngest child of George M. and Mantil L. Hampton of Prairie View, AR. My brother called me "Babe" and I have gone by that name since. I attended the Prairie View school until the family moved to Paris, where I finished High School in 1924. I was the first annual Queen of the high school.



After graduation I began to teach in the grade school in September of 1924. I taught there until World War II; then the Board moved me to Junior High. Later I taught English in high school for several years. I sponsored the annual, Hal J. Kennamer National Honor Society, class trips and plays.

When I started to teach, my pupils called me "Miss Babe". Even today every one calls me "Miss Babe".

In 1944 I married Walt Houser who had two children, Betty and Joe, by a former marriage. I received my BSE Degree from the then Teacher's College of Conway in 1941. In 1953 I received my masters degree from the University of Fayetteville. I did all of my college work in the summers.

Since retirement in 1966, I spend the summers going to class reunions which are the highlight of my life. Last summer I attended seven reunions. I have done some oil and china paintings. I have been active in civic affairs and taught a Sunday Class of the Christian Church since the twenties.

DORA SHERRELL LLOYD - In 1917 after four years at College of Ozarks, I received a BS degree with a major in Home Economics and minor in Science.

My first summer out of school I taught at Lone Star (country school), where Joe Carter, Jr. was a student, (his first school).

In the fall of 1927 I came to Paris as Home Economics teacher. I also taught one class in Biology and one in Geometry. In one or the other of these classes I had Dr. James Smith, Bill Daniels, and Larry Connelly. Two former grade school teachers, La Vern Thompson and Emma Jane Rawland were in my Home Ec class.



When my children, Katy Lou and Ray Sherrell, were young, I was home several years. In 1940 the school lunch program was started at grade school and I came back to work as dietician. I spent mornings at the lunch room and taught classes at high school in the afternoon. But this arrangement didn't last long because we offered the lunch program at New Blaine School and a new cafeteria was built at the high school. From that time on I was busy with all of the duties of a lunch room supervisor until I retired in 1969.

Superintendents W. S. Morgan, Hal J. Kennemuer and Robert C. Ehren will always be remembered as great people to work with.

SADA B. CHITWOOD - Memories of Miss Sada

Oral interview by June Carter and Celestine Wiggins on February 25, 1987 at Miss Sada's home in Paris.

Q. Miss Sada, where were you born?

A. I was born at Prairie View, March 18, 1892. I will be 95 on my birthday.

Q. Who were your parents?

A. John Grundy Chitwood and Mattie Josephine Bennett. But let me tell you about my grandmother. She was real, real old and the ugliest human being I ever saw in my life. I would sit in her lap and she was always telling me about coming from Tennessee in Sequatchie Valley. Someone asked my Papa which one of his five girls favored his mother and he said "Sada". He was always crazy about his mother. I didn't say anything cause I knew she looked like a monkey!



Q. What was her maiden name?

A. Let me see, Sarah Moore and she had a brother named "Fed" Moore of Ellsworth.

Q. Who were your brothers and sisters?

A. Docie, Zena, Russell G., Mary, and Eutha. I'm the baby of the family and a spoiled brat. I like it! I have a lot of fun!

Q. What did you teach, Miss Sada?

A. I had seventh grade a long time. I taught science and math. I loved my kids.

Q. How many years did you teach?

A. About 40 years. I graduated from Dardanelle High School. They hired me to teach on Mt. Nebo. I lived up there in the summer. I had about eight pupils and two of these came from the University of Arkansas. I taught them Latin and they taught me Latin, together, you know, and that was just a half day. That was my first school. You know I made \$35 a month and oh, I was so rich.

The next place I taught was at Frog Pond out from Dardanelle. About four or five miles west on the Danville Road. I drove a horse and buggy every morning. Oh, it was awful, but they were nice to me. I didn't know it but Papa found out from someone that they had run every teacher off that had been there, both men and women. I went in there and didn't know anything about it. I was young and thought a whole lot of myself.

The first thing that happened to me, I was writing something on the black-board and someone hit the board with a paper wad. A little boy was sitting on the front in the first grade and just the cutest little thing you ever saw. I just turned around and he looked guilty. I said, "Did you throw that paper wad? I'm sorry as I can be you didn't hit me, did you? I tell you I want to talk to this little boy so the rest of you go on with your work." I had a tablet and took about ten sheets of paper to that little boy and said, "Honey, you just chew all you want to. You just chew 'til you can't stand it." About the third dose he commenced to cry. "If you'll let me quit chewing this paper, I'll never shoot another paper wad." Oh, I had a pretty hard time but they didn't run me off.

Q. Where did you teach next?

A. I never had asked for a school, and they asked me to come to Dardanelle to teach. Then I came to Paris, I cannot remember the year (1921). They sent for me. It wasn't my popularity, I don't mean that.

Q. Who was superintendent when you came to Paris?

A. Mr. Morgan. Others who taught when I did were Velma Smith and Mr. Haskew. Mr. Mantooth later on. Mr. Paul Buzbee was my principal. Mr. Haskew was an awfully nice man. I liked him.

Q. When did you retire?

A. I can't remember. (She retired in 1955.) You see, I waited on my mother and I waited on my father, when they were sick and my two sisters and I've had about all I can take, you know. Some days I'm fine and some days I'm not so fine. I don't complain much.



CHITWOOD FAMILY about 1889 - J. G., Docie, Mattie Josephine holding baby Eutha, Russell, Zena behind the empty chair for Grandfather, Russell Birdwell, Mary and grandmother, Sarah Moore.

My brother, Russell, lived in Memphis and died on his 100th birthday. We went to see him about a month before he died. He has a son who lives in Minnesota. Recently his daughter died.

I had a wonderful mother and a good daddy, too, but he made me mind. The only punishment we got was they'd take privileges away from us. My father took charge of us when we got home from school, and we got our lessons.

My grandfather, Joseph Bennett, was buried in a little plot on the family farm near New Blaine where his wife could look out her window and see his grave.

Q. Do you wear glasses, Miss Sada?

A. No, I read all the time and work crossword puzzles and the cryptograms in the paper. I just love to work them.

Q. Do you write letters?

A. Oh, yes, I have a niece who lives in Salt Lake City. She's the sweetest thing. I write to her all the time, she's precious to me. She came to Paris and she just loves Paris. She's a reader in the Christian Science Church and lives alone in a condominium.



Front row: Sada, Virginia Norton & husband, Russell G.,
Zena and Docie's daughter Lucille Jones
Back row: Docie, John G., Mattie Josephine, Mary and
Eutha.

WOMEN IN GIRL SCOUTING

For more than 69 years, women of Paris and other North Logan County towns have kept a good program going for girls. More than 200 women have been leaders or helped with the troops. Hundreds of girls have benefited from this volunteer work. It would be interesting to read their names but no official list has been kept. This story is mostly about those women who have kept the Girl Scout program going continuously.

Before the first Girl Scout troop there was a similar group - a Campfire Girls unit started in 1920 by Mrs. Charles Franklin. Lucille Hall Smith was the leader. The group often camped at "Gutter's Rock" with "Preacher", Mrs. Franklin's husband a Methodist preacher, going along. Ten of those 18 girls are still living and remember the good times.

By 1933 there was a troop of Girl Scouts meeting with Zoe Barham, a teacher, as leader. They had a little log cabin near the Legion Hut that Marie Bowles Koch's father donated the logs for. Marie prizes her Girl Scout scrap book. Bea Wright came into Girl Scouting in the 1940s. She met with the troop for over ten years. They camped on Mt. Magazine every summer and once went to Camp Quachita near Hot Springs. Ethel Smith, a Red Cross worker, had them singing at the Camp Chaffee hospital. Bea stayed in the Girl Scout program over 15 years.

There were other troops during those years. Mary Ann Spec Breed was a long time leader with Dr. Emma Sherrell assisting her. These were known as Lone Troops. Women had to rely on others in learning to start a troop. Mary Ann helped to do this. In the early 1950s Mrs. Glenn McNeal started a troop because Martha Lou Timmons kept pestering her with, "Berniece, I want to be a Brownie!" Mrs. McNeal's daughter was in Mary Ann's troop of older girls.

Eventually seven troops were registering each year. It fell on Mrs. McNeal to "wear many hats" being a complete service team. Once a woman stopped her on the Town Square to ask help in starting a troop. That stranger became a long time and dedicated leader. Mrs. McNeal not only helped start troops but she held the first "Thinking Day" for all of the troops at the City Park in 1955. A booth was entered at the Fair where the space was in the old chicken house. She set up the first Court of Awards at the old grade school in 1956 with a full house. Her troop camped at the City Park. At this year's Court of Awards she received her 35 year pendant.

In 1960 the Mt. Magazine Council of ten and one half counties was formed with the office in Fort Smith. This made a local Neighborhood with a team consisting of a chairman, an organizer, and a consultant. The leaders and this team went to Kelley Cabin in Fort Smith for training. Logan-Pine became the neighborhood name. A Field Advisor was assigned to bring information and more training. These training sessions go on year after year.

Nine troops were now meeting weekly. Then County Line and Charleston were added to the Neighborhood. Subiaco and later Prairie View had troops. All of these troops joined for Day Camps set up at the Legion Hut by Mrs. McNeal with the girls spending one night in tents.

Some leaders and their helpers stay on year after year, progressing with their troop. Mothers are often the leader for two troops with a daughter

in each. Joyce Hander is one of these. She served as cookie chairman for years and has served on the Council Camp Board. But of all the ways she has served for over 20 years she will be remembered most by the Senior Scout troop for the coveted trip to National Girl Scout Center in Cuernavaca, Mexico in 1973. Over a year was spent planning the three week trip plus earning the money.

For years the Council hoarded the profits from the Cookie Sale for a camp. In 1967 a 400 plus acre site was bought near Ione. Paris researched and turned in the winning name, a Caddo Indian word, "Cahinnio". Later Paris scouts gave a large cast-iron dinner bell in memory of Bea Wright.

At a Court of Awards in 1969, Mrs. McNeal was surprised with Girl Scout's highest award, "The Thanks Badge". It was the fourth such award in the Mt. Magazine Council. She also was given a 50# bag of sunflower seeds for the birds. At the 1974 Court of Awards, Joyce Hander received "The Thanks Badge" also.

The number of girls in these troops became too large to meet in the leaders' homes so churches and schools opened their doors. But the burning of the old grade school made conditions crowded in the churches. An old dream for a meeting place just for the Girl Scouts surfaced. Pat Jones, a long time leader not only shared this dream, but had the faith that the people of Paris and vicinity would help to build a Girl Scout hut. Frank Willems said the Green Thumb Fellows could build one of cement blocks. The City Council deeded a plot in the park near the new elementary school. Help came from all the good folks just as Pat said it would, in the form of materials, labor, and money. The hut was built in 1973.

Having a permanent meeting place helps to keep the Scouting program going. Leaders, helpers and the little girls come and go but the building committee of Mrs. Jones, Mrs. Hander, and Mrs. McNeal still serves. Pat has over 20 years chalked up in scouting.

A leader with many years in scouting moved here from Hot Springs, progressing with a troop into the Senior level. The girls were able to go to England with a troop formed from the entire council. It was an International Gathering of both Girl and Boy Scouts. Four Paris scouts lived with a Girl Guide for a week then attended the camp. This was in 1984 and the following year a Girl Guide came to Paris to visit these scouts. Joye Cooper was the leader.

From 1960 to 1986 there have been six Neighborhood Chairmen, attesting to the stability and dedication of the local leaders. Eva Spencer is now the Logan-Pine chairman along with being a leader. She wears the "many hats" holding Day Camps at the Girl Scout Hut inviting troops from other towns. The troops march in all of the Parades, have a booth at the Fair, and take part in other community affairs. The "Thinking Day" and Court of Awards goes on year after year. Brownies are taken to Camp Cahinnio to Brownie Rally, older girls attend events at Fort Chaffee and elsewhere, and all of the troops do many community service projects.

There is continuity in the activities, the little girls that participate, and the leaders that guide them - continuity like the flow of a river. But the dedicated service of a few women in the county forms the bed for this river to flow in.





GIRL SCOUTS - CITY PARK - MARCH 12, 1955

FAMILY LETTERS OF THE MARSHALL MC GRAW FAMILY

Compiled by Shiela Beatty Alexander

This is the third installment of the publication of letters written to Marshall McGraw of South Carolina by members of his family who moved to Arkansas before the Civil War. These letters convey the hard times experienced by members of this family during the years after the Civil War.

A niece of Marshall McGraw married J. J. Boyd and this family moved to the Franklin and Logan County area prior to the Civil War. Sarah Ann, the oldest daughter of Marshall McGraw, married an O'Neal in South Carolina. They had four children; Ellen, Henry, John and a son who died in infancy. After the death of O'Neal, Sarah married A. S. Jackson. They were the parents of three children, one of whom died at an early age. A. S. Jackson and his family moved to Hempstead County, Arkansas, in the 1850s. After the war was over, they moved to the Logan County area in Six Mile Township.

Descendants of the Boyd, O'Neal, and Jackson families reside in Logan County and in Franklin County today.

Another daughter, Jemima, married a man by the name of Stuart. They too moved to Hempstead County. After Stuart's death, Jemima moved to Monroe, Louisiana.

Other family members resided in Mississippi.

* * * * *

June the 25 1871
Trenton, La

My Dear Father and Mother,
I received sometime ago and would have answered it before now but I have been sick and as soon as I was able to be up I had to move on account of high water and being so dissatisfied where I am that I could not compose my mind enough to write before now. I think I can move back by the 1st of July. The times are very hard here and is a going to be still harder. The rain commenced in March and continued until the middle of June and since that time there has not been one drop of rain here. All the bottom land is yet under water and the hill land is not very good, so with the rain and then the drought, there can be but little made. We are all as well as usual. I am never well. Lizzie had a severe attack of dropsey last December. She was in bed 7 weeks, and part of the time the doctor thought she would not recover, but she is now well. Sallie is still going to school at Shrieveport and will be there two years longer. She intends to be an accomplished teacher if she lives, and that is the most money making business that this country affords. She is well and well satisfied. She works for her board and tuition. I have not seen her for two years, the last letter I had from her she said she would write to you. When you write to me let me know how churches are thriving and if the Crooked Run Church is entirely given up by the Primitive Baptist. There is but little religion here. It is commonly said the Baptist has some of their members up before the church every church meeting for getting

drunk, and the Methodists has theirs up for dancing. The fact is you cannot know who belongs to the church unless they tell it themselves. Lizzie says if you have yours and my mothers and brother Bunyan's deaganatype you must write to her how much a photograph will cost that is copies from the dagauratype. If you can find out and if one of each does not cost too much, she will try and send you money enough to get one of each if she has to scour all the skin off of her hand to get the money to send you for these. The degaretype that you sent me of you and Mother, I was showing it to George Beard during the evening, and put it on the mantle piece and the next day I went to get it and it was gone. I know that some soldiers stole it. Oh, you have no idea how much I have cried for the loss of that precious treasure, for I do not know how I can get it again. I must close. Give mine and Lizzies love to Mother and Uncle A. and accept a large portion yourself. I remain your much devoted child.

J. Stuart

(TO MARSHALL MCGRAW, CAMDEN SC
FROM JEMIMA STUART, TRENTON LA)

February 30th 1872

My Dear Brother,

I now take the opportunity of writing you a few lines hoping they will find you in good health. I am now living with Mr. John Davis, he says I can stay as long as I wish to. If any time you wish to come up in this neighborhood we both will be glad to see you. My health is much better than it has been. I wish you would be kind enough to put my things upstairs as it will be impossible for me to get any conveyance to bring them until the crops is (laid by??). We have had so much rain and cold weather that it has delayed the farmers very much in their work. The health of the neighbors is all good. Mr. Glasus Robb died and was buried yesterday. I have not succeeded as well as I expected in collecting. I have only received three dollars on Julious (?) McGraws Note. Jim Gibson paid me one dollar and half on his note, Sam Simpson paid me one and half on his note. So I stand much in need of clothing. I would be glad if you would help me some in getting clothing, I have two pairs of pantaloons in Hatie (?) hand that I left I would be glad if you can make it convenient to bring them up north when you can come up. Come as soon as you can make it convenient. I will now close hoping it will find you and your family all well.

Your Affect. Brother
Abraham McGraw

(TO MARSHALL MCGRAW, CAMDEN SC
FROM ABRAHAM MCGRAW)

Okolona, Miss.
June the 17th 1872

Dear Uncle,

Your very welcome letter under date of Apr. 22nd was received some time ago. It had been in the office some time, the P. Master said, but knowing I would call for it he held it. The only excuse I have for not

writing sooner is the want of time to go to the office which is ten miles. I have full forty acres in corn, and thirty in cotton, and only two mules to plough, and myself a plow hand since done planting. So you know I but little time to spare.

I was truly sorry to hear of your afflictions, but then our "afflictions here will work out for us a more eternal weight of Glory", but it _____ impossible for me to refrain from _____ at my lot, when I know on reflection it is much better than I deserve, therefore I try to submit without complaint.

Here the winter was favorable, but little rain. Some sleet and snow, all light, but one snow. The spring being dry, those who did not have too much repairing to do had an early start and got good stands both corn and cotton. I never had so good a stand of early corn in my life, and as good a stand of cotton as I ever saw. Those who were a little late with cotton did not get a good stand until the last of May. My cotton is all in fine fix except two days hoeing with a good growing season in the ground. I have cotton half thigh high, well formed. I am nearly done laying by my upland corn, and apart of the bottom is now ready for the second and last plowing.

Our markets of provisions are a shade higher than yours. And great many have to buy. I am sixty years old, enjoy very good general health. I suffer some from piles. I have five sons with me, the oldest will be twenty in September. He will go to school next year so this is the last year he will work for me. The youngest will be seven in September, two girls younger. I have five daughter with me. The youngest of the first married last winter to a good man, Frank Arnett. He is the finest workman in the country and get from \$2.50 to \$3 per day. They live in one mile of me.

July 9th. I wrote the forgoing, expecting to go to the office but failed, and the two oldest boys took chill and _____ which I _____ up in about a week, they are doing _____, a younger one has had an attack but it yielded easier. The Doctors say all cases are stubborn this season. I have the best crop I ever had, corn is needing a rain, but not suffering seriously. I only have about four or five days plowing, and only three days hoeing. With about 12 acres of cotton to chop over which will be light job. I recd a letter from J. J. Boyd since I received yours.

All in tolerable health. Jane Perry is dead, they live about 14 miles from Boyd. _____ Dias health is not good. Crops are not good generally, owing to the partial rains, in places there has been no rain of consequence since Apr., and the freedmen generally as far as I know, are not working as well as heretofore. Their crops are mostly indifferently planted which does not suit a dry season. I believe I have wrote all that would interest you.

Write as often as convenient for your letters are a feast to me. May the blessing of the Lord rest upon you and yours is the prayer of your unworthy nephew.

J. W. McGraw

To
M. McGraw

Webster, Miss.
Aug 16th 1867

Mr. Marshall McGraw

Dear Old Friend it has been a long time since I have heard from you and as I had a little leisure this evening I concluded to write to you to let you know the times out here and so that I could hear from you and my old friends and the news of the country, generally knowing that you could give it to me to my satisfaction. We are all enjoying good health at this time, with the exception of my wife and she is not had real good health for some time, but she is up and down, sometimes sick and sometimes well. My son John has married, he married last year and is still living with me. Joel and Robert are still at home. Joel minds my mill, and he gets more grinding than he can do both of wheat and corn. My crop and crops generally out in this country are very good, cotton has suffered some by being too wet and then a little dry too. Suddenly corn has been very scarce through this country this year and there was some suffering but now people I think will be blessed with a bountiful supply for the next year if they will only take care of it, all the corn that was used here was brought from the northern states.

I will now try to give you a statement of prices out here. Corn is selling for \$1.69 _____. Flour for from 8 to 10 dollars per hundred. Sugar 18 to 25. Syrup by the Bbl 1.10 retail 1.40 per gal. Coffee for 33 1/3 cts per lb. John Rometry is living at Mastulaville Miss, about 25 miles from my house and 12 miles from Macon on the Mobile and Ohio R. R. About our political affairs I can say but little, for I pay but little attention to it. The negroes are all registered, I suppose for voting. Our little towns are nearly all garrisoned by troops. The negroes here are behaving tolerable well considering, but every now and then one is killed and found dead and nobody knows who does it. I believe as far as I can learn, the people here will vote no convention, preferring military rule to the negro voting. There is also occasionally a yankee soldier or officer killed in the country or shot at and badly wounded and I think it is that much worse for the country, but there is so much hatred existing between the two parties that such things will happen now and then although I think it is worse for us. Society generally is very much demoralized since the war, every now and then you can hear of a man being robbed or a gang of horse thieves _____ over the country.

I would like to know what has become of Uncle Abraham and where he is living, we heard here that Aunt Lusey was dead but do not know for certain. I would also like to know how old Aunt Nancy Frazier is getting along, her and the family also IM Beard if he is still living and what he is doing and how you are all getting along, in fact I wish to know all about the old neighborhood and neighbors generally Jane Hawes and John Boyd, and what has become of the old Boyd estate negroes. Old Dinah wishes you to make some enquiries about her daughter Harriet that used to belong to Felise Turanspeed, you can find out by enquiring of Beard. My negroes are all still living with me but York and Jack, _____ left, York ran off with a Yankee raid. So no more at present, but I hope to hear from you soon as possible.

Your old friend, John Frazier
Webster, Miss.

I N Q U I R I E S

HELTON Kirby Watkins, 1511 Tulip Drive, Arlington, TX 76013 would
KENDALL like to correspond with those interested in the family of
AVANTS Ep. T. Kendall who married for the second time to Anna Terry
TERRY and had children Mary Jane who married John William Avants;
Rebecca who married Andrew Spurlin; Ep. T., Jr. who first
married Anna Jane Avants and then married Mary Helton, daughter
of John Helton. George Terry, brother of Anna b. 1813, mar-
ried the second time to Mary Avants, sister of John Avants.
Robert Avants, brother of John Avants, married Eliza Jane
Helton, daughter of William Helton. The widow Anna Terry
Kendall married in 1840 Wade Helton. Her step-son John Thomas
Helton lived in Logan County.

CARTER W. S. Carter, Rt. 1, Box 138, Gore, OK 74435 would like in-
formation about Joel Carter, born 1786 and died 1864, buried
at Valley Grove or Pleasant Grove. His son was J. A. Carter.
Any information would be appreciated.

WELDON David Weldon, 208 Cynthia, Victoria, TX 77904 wants to know
RANKINS who were the parents of Henry Weldon, born Dec. 25, 1846,
HALL and died in 1901, a Civil War veteran. Henry Weldon married
Sarah Elizabeth Rankins. Also would like to know the identity
of Columbus Weldon listed in the 1850 and 1860 Montgomery Co.,
Arkansas census, living in the household of Alex C. Hall.

SIZEMORE Norma Lee Meyer, 25225 Ward Place, Carmel, CA 93923 would like
LOVEALL information about her grandparents Andrew Jackson and Mary
Ella Sharlotta (Loveall) Sizemore. Both are buried in the
County Line Cemetery near Sugar Grove. Her parents are Pleas
and Norma (Nichols) Sizemore.

CHANCE Bonnie Hill Patterson, Rt 2, Box 106D, Hawkins, TX 75765
SUTTON wants information on Chance and Sutton families. Also wants
MOSS information on P. E. Moss who married in 1866 Margaret
BAILEY Canzadie Bailey. Their son Herbert was born in 1871 in
BELL Logan County.

CHRISTY John R. Christy, 1111 Mimosa, Champaign, IL 61821 would like
DOYLE to have any information about the family of Joseph Christy who
JENNINGS married Margaret Arminta Dole of Yell County, on December 9,
1879. The family was living in Magazine Township, Yell County
in 1900. Henry Christy, Joseph's father, married Martha
Jennings in Kentucky in 1847. They were in Arkansas in the
mid 1860s. In 1900 Henry was married to Jenny E.? and
living in Yell County, probably at Chikalalah.

KELLEAM Marjorie Kelleam Moreland, 4111 Franklin Ave., Fuel, CA 92633, (714) 526-7686, looking for William Leggette Kelleam and Charles R. Kelleam. Are they father and son?

CASEY Need children, dates, parents, etc. on E. B. (Ellsberry?)
NEWMAN Casey born ca 1837 in TN; to TX after 1850; to Logan Co, AR ca 1878; wife Evelyn or Emaline Newman born ca 1830. Jonathan A. Newman 1848 - ca 1927 of Magazine, Logan Co, AR, related - brother? Mrs. Ralph D. Hodge, 18218 Barbuda Ln, Houston, TX 77058.

SWAFFORD Charline Rambaud, 25408 Via Escovar, Valencia, CA 91355 would
BLACK like to correspond with others regarding the Swafford family
MOORE and allied families. William Swafford (b. 1839 TN; d. 1929 AR)
DOZIER married Olive Elizabeth Black (b. 1853 IL; d. 1933 AR). Her father was Aaron Black and her brother was William Sherman Black. Thomas Sherman Swafford (b. 1879 Ar; d. 1943 MO) married Emily Belle Sadie Moore (b. 1883 AR; d. 1958 MO). Her father was Clement Wesley Moore and her mother was Louise Dozier. William Swafford was supposed to have run a peach cannery near Barber.

DILDAY Lynette Jennings, P. O. Box 55, Quapaw, OK 74363 would like date of death and place of burial for Cooper and Malinda Dilday. They are said to be buried in the Arkansas River bottom in Logan County. They died some time between 1892 to 1896?

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WAGON WHEELS

