HISTORY OF
LEE COUNTY, ARKANSAS

by
Lee County Sesquicentennial Committee

UNDOCUMENTED
(How I Celebrate the Sesquicentennial)

How can you say no bridge was ever here?
Grandfather said that in this shaded space
He and his brothers swam.
Yet of the bridge, the road his father built we find no trace
Grandfather did not write his stories down.
His roughened hands were curved to fit the plow,
the ax, the gun; but by the open fire
He told the tales that I am telling now.
"Undocumented" is the word we use for facts that
were not written down and sealed;
Yet in these living tales grandchildren found the
human side of history revealed.
And who can document the wild delight
Of jumping from those sturdy puncheon piers,
Cold water slapping bottoms winter-white ——
No clothes, no doubts, no worries and no fears?
I celebrate by writing what I know —— because,
You see, Grandfather told me so.

Marnelle Robertson

1931 North Industrial Blvd.
Zip Code
75207-4921

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The painting on the cover of the *Lee County History* book was taken from a painting by Grace Marie Britt Willis of the Dr. W.W. Longley home which was on the Alabama Road in Marianna, presently Alabama Street or Highway 1, South.

Grace Marie Britt came to Marianna in 1912 with her family from Southeast Missouri. She attended Mulberry School and was often called on to draw maps or holiday decorations. After her marriage to J.G. Willis she lay aside her artist's tools until the early 1940's when she studied under Mary McMillan, a retired artist who came to Marianna to live with her sister, Mrs. J.E. Mitchell, Sr.

After her husband's death Mrs. Willis taught art in her home and found time to paint regional landmarks such as the Longley home, which was torn down in the early 1960's for a housing development. The media used for her interpretation of the Longley home were watercolor and colored pencils.

Mrs. Willis now lives in Rockford, Illinois, where she has moved to be near her daughter, Betty.

INTRODUCTION

The Lee County History Book is a project of the Lee County Sesquicentennial Committee in celebration of our state's 150th birthday in 1986.

The torch of Lee County's history was established by Effie Allison Wall. It was then given to Jessamine Daggett Gist, Elisabeth Harrington and Edward Robertson, who kept it glowing through the years. With the completion of this book, the realization that Lee County's history is now an eternal flame brings satisfaction to me, and I hope a smile to those who have previously been the torch bearers.

* * * * * * * * * * * * *

The candid photos of faces of Lee County ca. 1930's are through the courtesy ofJimmy Pilkington whose uncle, Fred Plummer, took the photographs.

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some dried in the sun during summer. There was no margarine. The cows were milked by hand, the milk strained into sterilized glass jugs, cooled in buckets or tubs of water fresh from the pump which was replaced throughout the day to keep it cool. Cream was skimmed from the top of the milk and saved a couple days to be clabbered and then churned until butter separated and floated to the top where it was skimmed off and washed to get out any milk. Sometimes a deep hole was dug in the ground into which milk and other sealed food would be lowered. The dirt would be kept moist, the hole covered and sheltered to keep the contents cool.

Can you remember before screen doors and windows? Flies were driven out of the house by flying leafy limbs or towels then closing the door. A mosquito bar for our beds were made of four poles cut from saplings, trimmed and fastened to each bedpost. A boxlike covering with material like cheesecloth on five sides with the bottom open was fastened to the poles at the top to hang over and around the bed like a canopy to be tucked under the mattress after one got into bed. We didn't see wide spacious lawns? Cotton was planted close to the house and the yard was bare ground kept swept clean. Out back would be the chopping block and ax where poles were chopped and blocks of wood split for firewood as well as cookwood. Somewhere out there would be a pile of ashes dumped from daily stove cleanings. Also there would be a little house with a smooth trodden path which today has been replaced with indoor toilets.

Saturday evenings, after a week of field work, Mama would do the week's wash and scrub the old wood floors with the wash water? She would then rinse them with clear water from the hand pump or rain water caught in barrels, tubs, etc. There were no curtains on our sharecropper's home but Mama always kept her windows shining. There were no closets or even a dresser but Mama somehow kept the house looking neat and orderly by covering boxes of clothes, etc. with a sheet squared neatly over the conners.

What about the time there was no air conditioners or ceiling fans, not even a portable fan? The windows and doors were propped open to let any breeze flow through the house. There was the fanning with a folded paper, a book, a piece of cardboard, etc. while resting or visiting. And the hand fan with Bible pictures on one side and advertisement on the back were as prominent in church as the hymnal.

It was not unusual to see people walking to the country church? There were more wagons than cars, more mules and horses than tractors, fields full of hand cotton pickers and choppers instead of machinery. There were no soybean or rice fields in Lee County but cotton, corn and hay fields. The cows were to be milked twice a day about the same time each day and the churning about once a week to make the butter and buttermilk; the eggs to be gathered, chicks to be fed and fastened up at night were daily chores along with slopping the hogs, pumping water for the stock and bringing in wood and kindling.

Remember before T.V. and two car families? After an early supper, the family would go over to visit the neighboring family, children running and playing, chasing lightning bugs. When the first radio was bought in the community the neighbors all around would gather to listen to "The Lone Ranger", "Intersanctum", "Perry Mason", "Ma Perkins", "Amos and Andy", and the men especially liked boxing. The children entertained themselves, girls playing house with their dolls having a tea party or in an imaginary house under a shade tree with walls marked out with sticks, furniture made of bricks, boards and boxes. Did you ever make mud pies and cakes? Sometimes the dolls would be cloths folded or rolled and tied to shape an imaginary doll. Then there was the iron band from a wagon hub rolled and chased starting by rolling it down a narrow board on which a tin can was flattened and nailed on one end to guide the band as you chased it.

Remember picking cotton in a seven or nine foot cotton sack, carrying it to a wagon on your shoulder to be weighed on a long scale using a weight called a pee that was moved down notches in the long scale until it balanced? The scale hung from a pole or wagon tongue removed and fastened behind one of the back wheels of the wagon, sticking out behind and beyond the wagon. You'd get paid fifty cents per hundred, increasing during the years to three and a half dollars per hundred. This would go toward buying groceries and a few school clothes. Once in awhile there'd be a few cents for candy and such. I don't remember children grumbling about it. We were just tickled when there was something extra, knowing money was short and had to be spent wisely. (picture 2).

Did you ever watch mules or horses go in a circle at the hay baler while the men pushed in hay from a stack or wagon, as it was hauled to the baler, and see bales of hay pop out? Or what about the haystack for those that couldn't afford to have it baled? The hay was gathered with pitchforks in the field on to a wagon and hauled to a convenient location to make a big tall stack that was kept until winter to be fed to the stock, along with corn gathered into a crib. For corn gathering, a wagon was pulled by mules or horses down a couple of rows every four or six rows. Two or three people walked behind and beside, pulling corn and tossing it into the wagon. (picture 3).

Remember when there were more forests than fields? People cut timber, hauled it to the sawmill for lumber to build homes, barns and other buildings. The roofs were wooden shingles or tin and neighbors all gathered around to help build, as they did to bale hay, kill hogs, etc. There was no gas or electricity but timber for the wood cutting chore after crops were laid by (stopped working them after they were large enough to shade the ground).

Time was when there was an addition to the family the kids all were taken to visit the neighbors or relatives and the doctor came out to the home.

And what about the community get-togethers on the Fourth of July for home-made ice cream after a big picnic or pot luck dinner? Or sometimes met at the river where the men seined for fish to fry and the kids, with some adults, swam in the swimming hole.

What happened to those big juicy blackberries along the river, ditches and fence rows? We would fasten our buckets onto our belts leaving both hands free to pick. Sometimes there would be a wasp or bee sting and somebody almost always had snuff or chewing tobacco to make a plaster for it.

Remember before plastic when fertilizer, feed, and flour came in sacks made of white or print cotton material? They were used to make towels, sheets and clothing.

In winter cover for the bed consisted of a double blanket (one that was long enough to cover the bed then folded back up from the foot to cover it again) over which was put handmade quilts and comforters made of a top (scrap materials sewed together making a design), a lining of cotton material quilted with a padding between of a cotton batt or cotton carded on cotton carders (two boards about 6 by 8 inches covered on one side with wire teeth that were rubbed together to comb the cotton smooth).

Remember the government spray program of D.D.T. that killed the flies, mosquitoes and bedbugs?

Remember children walking to school, arriving at different times, alone or in small groups; but when school was out the road was full of children, thinning out as they arrived at their homes one after another. There was no gum chewing during school hours and no talking or whispering except during class.

I wonder who would admit to ever eating out of tin dishes – cups and plates? Now and then the family recalls with a chuckle the cousin whose family was sitting out front of the house while "Old Ned" the mule had come up back, stuck his head in the kitchen window, and began to chew on the oilcloth on the table. Suddenly there was a terrible clattering from the kitchen as the tin dishes hit the floor. Cousin said, "Mama, Old Ned's breaking all our dishes."

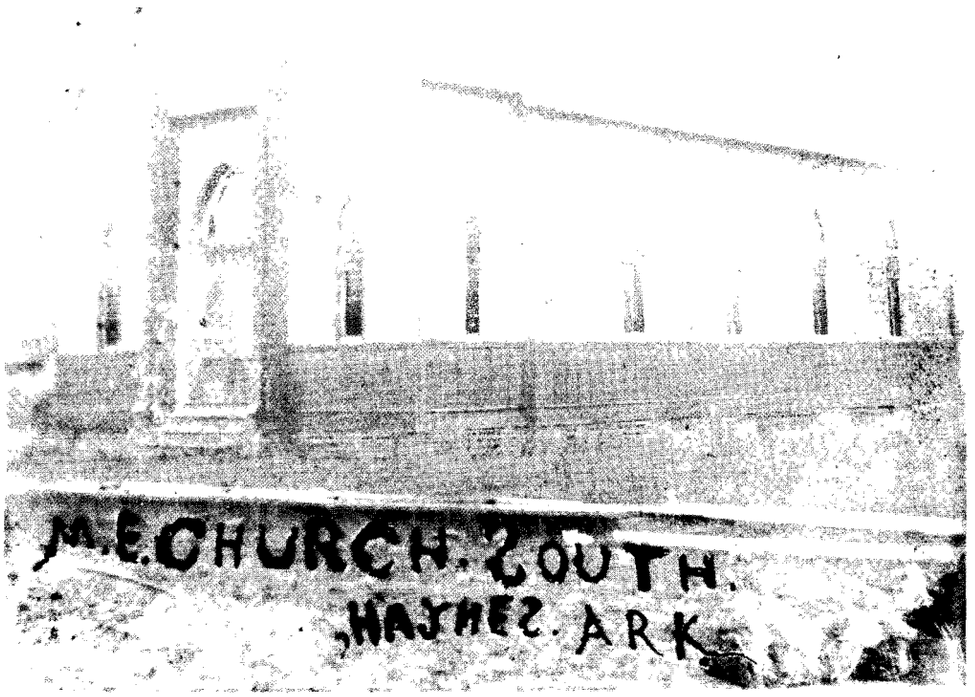
by Zella Lee Mathews

HAYNES HISTORY

T22



This was the J.O. "Jack" Spence family about 1940 who lived out from Haynes. They are: (from left) Jonnie Spence, Johnny Osborn "Jack" Spence, Rosie Carson Spence and J.B. "Jack" Spence.



The Methodist Church of Haynes.

Several families had come to the area around Haynes in the 1820's, '30's and '40's to make their homes. By the 1850's stores, churches and a school had been built to serve the families. By 1888, Haynes was a flourishing community, the second largest town in Lee County with a population of 350. The Missouri-Pacific railroad linking Marianna and Forrest City had been built through the middle of town in the 1870's and this also helped the town to prosper. In 1888, Haynes had five general merchandise stores, two drug stores, several mixed stores, a hotel, a bank, two blacksmith and wagon shops, a millinery distribution center and one undertaker. The Hughes and Curtis brick store alone cost $10,000 to build. Two stream sawmills and three cotton gins added to the economy of the town. In that year 5000 bales of cotton were shipped from Haynes and the aggregate business total for the year was $300,000.[1] There were two schools, one for white children and one for black children, a Methodist and a Baptist church for white families and a Baptist church for black families.



The George Roemhild home at Cannan out from Haynes.

The 1889, Haynes was incorporated. The petition for incorporation states that over 70 voters signed the petition. There had been some acrimonious discussion about what to call the town, but Haynes was finally decided on to honor the station-master for the railroad.

In an era when roads were bad, the railroad was important. It not only moved goods, it was also necessary for people to get from place to place. An Elks Lodge had been organized and dances were frequently held in their hall above the W.S. Hughes' store building. People rode the train from Forrest City and Marianna to attend the dances.

Among the white families living in Haynes at the time were the Hughes, Davises, Curtises, Rogers, Daniels, Dawsons, Jones, Friars, and Bullards. Among the black families were the Wilsons, Pattons, Crosses, and Calverts.

In the early part of the 19th century, Haynes began to lose population and businesses. It also became unincorporated. By 1930, there were only 5 stores, a blacksmith shop, a post office and two cotton gins left in Haynes.

In the early 1960's, the Methodist church was disbanded. The schools were closed when Hayes consolidated with Marianna and the children were bussed to Marianna to school.

The population of Haynes gradually increased, and in 1979, Haynes was again incorporated. Today Haynes has a population of approximately 350 again. There is a post office, a fire station, one cotton gin, 2 stores, a blacksmith shop and two churches. A water and sewer system have been constructed and the streets have been paved.

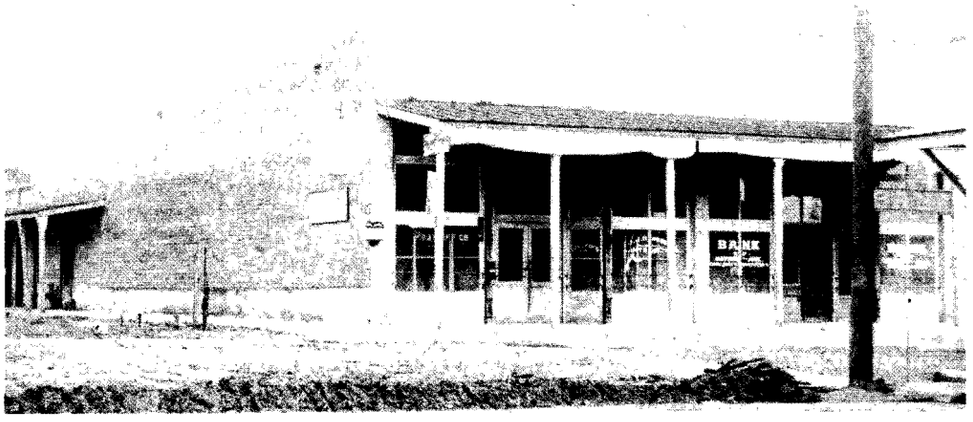
[1]Adell Patton, Jr. Ph.D. "Black family migration in-and-out" prepared for the Arkansas Historical Association Conference, March, 1984.

by Mary Harrell

A Look at Haynes in the 1890's

On a recent trip to Haynes we found it to be one of the most prosperous and thrifty towns in the State. It has several substantial brick storehouses that would be a credit to cities of the first class, and in the way of residences we will venture the assertion that it has more neat and substantial ones than any town of its size. We found the marshal, Walter Bryant, with quite a large force, busily engaged in the commendable occupation of putting down good sidewalks. The large two-story brick storehouse of W.S. & J.L. Hughes is not quite complete though that enterprising firm hopes to be able to open up their spring stock in it. Mr. Jno. J. Hughes, Jr. is now having built a very pretty and commodious residence near the business portion of the town, although he now owns and occupies a very pretty cottage which is too far from his business for convenience. We heard while there that Mr. M. Issacs also contemplated building another handsome residence in the near future. There are four general merchandising stores in Haynes; W.S. & J.L. Hughes, J.J. Hughes, Jr., Daniels & Briley and the Haynes Mercantile Association. Three drug stores are D.I. Jones, Williams & McDaniels, and B.F. Hood & Bros. There are four liquor stores, two large cotton gins and several other small businesses.

Prof. Thompson, the principal of the Haynes Public School, reported an enroll-



Bank of Haynes and Hughes Mercantile ca 1912.



Haynes Girls' Basketball team.



Residents of Haynes are from left: Ina Haney, Walter Black Curtis, Gladys Long and Davis Bullard.

ment of 72 children.

The previous article was in the February 21, 1891 edition of the *Lee County Courier* . Other bits and pieces about Haynes from 1891-1892 area as follows.

Haynes Public School will give a reception June 17 at 8:00 p.m. Misses Amanda Davis, Nannie Friar, Bernice McDaniel and Masters James Hood, Will Davis and Custer Friar constitute the Invitation committee.

A.T. Hancock, M.L. Dawson and Mr. Dawson's mother, Mrs. Cox, recently visited Marianna. Also O.W. Thompson.

On May 5, 1892 Mrs. R.M.S. Phillips died and D.I. Jones' drugstore burned. The only thing saved were a few surgical instruments and medical books.

Littell School's teacher was Miss Lollie Davis – a most efficient instructor.

A committee composed of Jesse Briley, H.C. Ragsdale and J.A. Brittain was appointed by the County Judge (Ragland) to examine a ferryboat at L'Anguille.

A petition was circulated in support of J.P Farrar as candidate for County and Probate Judge. Those who signed were: J.J. Hughes, Jr., S.M. Patrick, J.P. Curtis, W.S. Hughes, W.H. Halbert, W.W. McDaniel, John C. Lynch, W.W. Bryant, A.T. Hancock, J.H. Draper, W.B. Curtis, Bob Ragsdale, J.D. Thomas, S.L. Andrews, G.R. Roebuck, and O.W. Thompson.

O.W. Thompson, S.E.J. Crockett, and D.S. Jacks were judges at a municipal election.

Nat Smith has returned to Haynes and has engaged in operating Mr. Issac's sawmill for the season.

The Ladies' Aid Society of the Methodist Church has bought two new lamps and a carpet for the aisle and a church railing. The Methodist minister was the Rev. Dr. Whitaker.

Mart Hill was a marshal while J.B. Shirley was described as a "fine shot".

Gertrude Sparkman, daughter of Mrs. R.H. Boone, died in April of 1892 at age 12.

Will C. Curtis has returned home from school at Winchester, Tennessee.

Principal of Haynes School in 1892 was Prof. R.A. Blount who married Lou Burke of Helena. A reception and inspection ball for the couple was given at W.S. & J.L. Hughes' hall.

Elected city officials of Haynes in March of 1891 were: Mayor – W.W. McDaniel; Recorder – J.W. Rodgers; Aldermen – J.J. Hughes, Jr., T.G. Phillips, S.L. Andrews, J.A. Williams and Jesse Briley.

by Suzy Keasler



Haynes School in the 1950's.



Haynes Basketball team from left are: John E. Brown, Davis Bullard, Walter B. Curtis, ? Crippen and Bo Curtis.

John Harp Remembers Haynes 1911 - 1919

Haynes in those days was a thriving community consisting of several large mercantile stores, cotton gin, blacksmith shop, hotel, several churches, and the local public school in addition to the bank. It was an agricultural center with cotton the principal product. There were two practicing physicians in town. The Missouri – Pacific railroad bisected the town and at least three passenger trains ran daily in each direction.

Haynes celebrated the end of World War I with a bonfire and the burning in effigy of Kaiser Bill in front of the Hughes' Mercantile Store which was in the same building as the Bank of Haynes.

My father, W.A. Harp, kept some chickens and to stop the stealing of chickens from his flock he ordered a large steel bear trap and upon it arrival let it remain unclaimed (but tagged clearly who the receiver would be) on

the express wagon at the depot for several days so any passing by could see it. The result was that he never had to set the trap as the chicken stealing stopped abruptly.

Dad had one of the first bank burlar-alarms installed at the Bank of Haynes. Soon thereafter I was visiting my father at the bank and bumped my head on the alarm button. In less than one minute the bank was surrounded by local merchants, with shot guns, hoping to get a shot at a bank robber. This was probably Dad's most embarrassing moment.

by John Harp

Teachers at Haynes "H" 1956 - 57

Robert Anthony, superintendent and 5th and 6 grades; Mrs. Eileen Reynolds, 1st and 2nd: Mrs. Evelyn Thomas, 3rd and 4th; Mrs. Sara J. Hood, 7th and 8th and Mrs. Kate Adams, 5th and 6th.

West of New Cemetery
for Colors Been ca. 1996

Andrews Cemetery

I want to take this opportunity to thank Jenny Ann and Henry Boyer for all of their help, for finding this cemetery and taking me there. When you live in another state it is very hard to do research without people like them. Due to a limited time, I was only able to record three rows on the west side. Even though it is an incomplete list, it is important to have them recorded and published. It is my understanding that the people buried in the Andrews cemetery are all related to the Andrews family.

There were an important part of the history of this area. I dedicate this to their memory.

Andrews Cemetery.

A beautiful place, on rolling hills, large trees and an old iron fence. 1. Myrtle 1903-1928 and Jesse Hughes 1890-1928. 2. Hebert B. Hughes 1898-1898. 3. Lawson 1861-1928 - & Sallie Hughes 1869-1943. 4. Heber Hughes - 1898-1946. 5. Mary Eliza Pipkin 1864-1940. 6. Ruben Benjamin Pipkin 1873-1930. 7. Liniear Daniel 1816-1872. 8. Clara May — 1883-1888. 9. Annie Briley 1865-1873. 10. Willie Briley 1867-1873. 11. Benjamin Briley 1875 8 mo. 4 days. 12. Joseph Briley 1877, 4 yrs. 10 mo. 13. Susan Briley 1880 10 mo. old. 14. Mabel Hughes 21 yrs. old. 15. Ida Emma Smith 1881-1908. 16. Emma Briley 1844-1900. 17. Jesse Briley 1834-1896. 18. Jesse L. Briley 1870-1892. 19. George A.L. Briley 1884-1885.

All of these are children of George Ben & Sallie Andrews Daniel. 20. Roscoe Daniel 1883-1883. 21. William Daniel 1882-1882. 22. Jessie Daniel 1880-1880 (son). 23. G.B. Daniel 1842-1918 & Sallie A. Daniel d. 1918.

This stone is a family stone and has names on all 4 sides. Some were not buried here and have birthdates only. 24. Aldrige Andrews 9/9/1803-9/18/1888.

Harrieta Andrews 6/15/1815-12/22/1892. 25. Stephen L. Andrews 1854-1897. Mary E. Andrews b. 1864. 26. Stella L. Andrews (Nickle) b. 9/10/1892. Stephen W. Andrews b. 4/1897. 27. William A. Andrews 7/11/1837-12/1/1894. Alice J. Andrews b. 1/3/1853. 28. George Liniar Andrews 1893-1970. 29. Luther Franklin Andrews 1904-1961. 30. David Weatherly 1811-1889. 31. Bettie Weatherly 1832-1904. 32. Infant daughter (Alice) of P.M. & Villa Jones. 12/4/1885-8/20/1886. 33. Infant son (William Marshall) of P.M. & Villa Jones 11/23/1883-9/8/1885. 34. J.A. Bell son of W.H. W.G. & Drupina E. Andrews Bell, 11/15/1865-10/30/190? 35. Wm. S. Bell, son of WH. W.G. & D.E.A. Bell 2/9/1868-9/23/1916. 36. Eva Rilla Andrews 1888-1890. 37. Katie Estell Andrews 1885-1887. 38. — McFarland Andrews 1883 – son of G & N. Andrews. 39. Nancy Branch Andrews 1860-1929. 40. George A. Andrews 1849-1932. 41. Maurice L. Brittan 1890-1924. 42. Bryant Brittan 1860-1937. 43. Emma Brittan 1866-1945.

Many thanks to Mr. Will Curtis and Mr. T.G. Briley for taking care of this cemetery, where their wives are buried. Hopefully, someone will take their places some day.

by Jane Schweitzer

HOLUB CROSSING

T23

Holub Crossing, or Holub, as it is called by most, is at the junction of state highways 162 and 121 in the western part of Lee County. Today, it consists mainly of a store run by Edward Rutledge.

It had its beginnings as a rural community in about 1910 when Joe Holub moved to Lee County from Goodwin in St. Francis County. The Holubs had originally come to Arkansas from Nebraska. Their original European homeland was believed to be Bohemian Island but relatives are not sure just where this was. The parents, Joseph and Mary Powlishta Holub, were farmers and cattle raisers in Arkansas. Their children were Frank, Annie and Joe.

Upon reaching manhood Joe set out on his own. His father had died and his body had been taken back to Nebraska for burial. with his money and some from his mother, Joe built a store. Being successful at this he ventured into additional ways at making a living by building a cotton gin, grist mill, and dipping vat for his cattle. His livestock business also included goats.

In 1914 Joe married Neva Hawk, daughter of Charles Hawk. They became parents to two daughters, Thelma, born in 1915, and Vada, born in 1919. Thelma married Israel Jones in 1931 and they lived on a farm at Holub. Their two daughters are Neva Hall Mitchell, who lives in the Holub Crossing area, and Clara Coleman, who lives at Colt, Arkansas.

Neva Hall had five children by her husband, Frank Hall. He died in 1981. Their daughter, Diann, married a member of another Holub Crossing family, Orbin Herron, and they and their two children continue the family tradition of staying where their ancestors put down their Lee County roots . . . Holub Crossing. All of Joe Holub's descendants take pride that four consecutive generations still consider Holub Crossing – home.

by Suzy Keasler

One Room Schools in Texas Township

There was a one room school known as Walls School on the site where Walls Chapel Baptist Church is now on highway 121 between Westor and Holub Crossing. I attended school there from September 1921 through the eighth grade. My first teacher was Vinnie Farrar Holland. Other teachers were Mary White Doyle, Mrs. Watkins and her daughter, Stella Watkins. All are deceased with the exception of Mary White Doyle.

During the flood of 1927 the water rose high enough to get in the building, even to cover the desks. During part of the time this school was used as a church meeting place.

After finishing the eighth grade I had to transfer to the Gill School to finish high school.

There was another one room school located about three or four miles east of Walls School



Walls Chapel Baptist Church ca 1947 baptizing include from left: Dorothy Rutledge, Dot Mathews, Sissy McClendon, Lorene Rutledge, Don Neighbors (small boy), Patricia White, Anna Jo Herron, Aubrey Nelson or Eugene McClendon, Sam Mathews, Bobby Keown, Sadie Keown and Geneva Keown. Brother Edge was the pastor at the time.

arrived some of the streets were already paved with paving bricks and they were working on others. There were, of course, no automobiles, no picture shows, and no graphophones, nor any kind of "canned" music. To our delight, C.C. Mitchener and his wife lived across the street and he played the trombone and she the piano. Most every evening we could sit on our porch and listen. In those days, nearly everyone had a porch. It was the only air conditioner available.

Since there were no automobiles for the "well-to-do's" to ride in, they did have pretty horses and harness and surreys with the fringe on the top. On summer evenings they would come riding down the streets in all that finery and the sound of the horses hooves striking the paved streets was like beautiful music indicative of "Fairy Land." A blacksmith shop was as much a necessity in those days as auto repair shops are today.

I did not live in Marianna as long as my sister Esta. She married Keith Tainter in 1919 and lived in Marianna the rest of her life. Both of their sons, Stacy and Roy, still live in Marianna. Tainter's Garage was on Court Street and as I visited my sister I never lost touch with Marianna.

My first teacher was Miss Mary Blount, third grade. She had a policy which, I thought, worked very well. If you did something to disrupt the decorum of the classroom, her idea of punishment was to make you stay in after school and do a whole lot of whatever it was you had done to disrupt the class. One time a few of us stayed in and chewed and prepared 100 paper wads (or spit balls, if you prefer) from ink paper. Another time we had coughed each other's name to attract attention and so we stayed in after school and coughed for thirty minutes. We never did either of those again!

Some of the other teachers were: Miss Nina Govan, Mr. Cox, and Miss Alma Futrall. Miss Alma was a strict disciplinarian and a great teacher. If you required discipline, she would probably come to your desk, grab you and *shake* you. A good shaking removes any resistance that you may have entertained. They told me that if she came at me, to quickly grab a good hold on the seat. Well! She came at me, I grabbed at the seat and was too late and between my grabbing and her shaking, I almost forgot where I was. But I owe her a lot for giving me a good eighth grade education which stood me in good stead in high school.

by Huron Oliver

PATTERSON, JOHN

F243

An interesting article on John Patterson from Alsopp's *Romantic Arkansas* is the following narrative from Judge Edward D. Robertson, father of Ed Robertson of Marianna. This was related by Judge Robertson to former Governor Charles H. Brough.

"When I first moved to Marianna over fifty years ago, a most interesting and sturdy character lived there. Then over 85 years of age, "Uncle John" Patterson proudly boasted tht he lived for nearly a century in the same spot on Patterson's Branch southeast of Marianna, under the Kingdom of Spain, the Empire of France, the Republic of the United States, the Territory of Missouri, the Territory of Arkansas, the "Stars and Bars" of the Southern Confederacy and they flay of the Sovereign State of Arkansas. This longlived patriot of eastern Arkansas, who "bore the marks of many years well spent, with virtue, truth well tried, and wise experience" was honored as the "Patriot who lived under seven flags in the same spot," in contradistinction to Edward Everett Hale's 'Man Without a Country.'"

John Patterson's claim to having been "born, raised and lived within the same 20-mile radius" in Phillips and Lee Counties is verified by the 1880 U.S. Census of Lee County, Independence township. For the census taker penned those words on the official census form. The census was taken June 17, 1880 and noted that John Patterson age 80, had died June 8, 1880. On that final note we shall add "died" to the 20 mile radius claim. Supposedly buried on his place the property is owned in 1987 by the Mahan family.

by Suzy Keasler

PATTON FAMILY

F244

During the Civil War, refugee slave owners in Tennessee migrated with their slave families, the Patton family among them, through Arkansas to Texas, in the early 1860's. W.W. Heartsill of Tennessee published his travel account with the Confederate Army during the march through Arkansas in the early 1860's. West of Pine Bluff, on November 24, 1862, he reported that: " . . . Every day we meet refugees with hundreds of Negroes, on their way to Texas; thus we see that as the war is depopulating and ruining this country, it is building up the Lone Star State."

After gaining freedom, Ezekiel Patton and his wife, Jane, moved their family from Texas, where they had been forced to migrate, to Arkansas, around the Haynes area. Ezekiel became a tenant farmer and lived in Haynes until his death in 1909, at the age of 79. According to the Lee County census figures of 1880, the Patton family included: Ezekiel Patton, age 50, born ca. 1830 in Tenn.; Jane Patton, age 40, born ca. 1840 in Tenn.; Ellen, age 20, born ca. 1860 in Ark.; William (Bud), age 16, born ca. 1864 in Tex. or Tenn.; Henry, age 14, born ca. 1866 in Ark.; Grant (General), age 8, born ca. 1872 in Ark.; John Wesley (Sonny), age 3, born ca. 1877 in Ark.; Boon (Daniel?), age 1, born ca. 1879 in Ark.

The name Grant, given to the fourth born son, may be indicative of both sentiment for the Union cause and developing ties to the Republican Party, following emancipation. Grant Patton, born in 1872, soon came to be known by the sobriquet of "General" in the religious and social circles of Haynes and beyond.

The only daughter, Ellen, married John Cross (born 1852), son of Mr. Cross and Jenny Mose Cross (born Ark.). They were the parents of nine children: Edwin, Purly, Clemie, Flora, John Haywood, Josie, Bessie, Hester and Willie. Their children lived in Haynes and pursued the local trades.

One member of the next generation became an assistant in veterinary medicine and established a legacy in the medical tradition; for out of this line two members were trained as medical doctors at Howard University College of Medicine.

My grandfather, Rev. "General" Grant Patton, married Mattie Dave (born 1878) and had twelve children: Odie, Jessie, Oliver, Roosevelt, Naomi, Louis Sr., Willie B., Clinton, Adell Sr. (my father), Bertha Lee, Rosie Lee and Wardell.

William (Bud) was the father of six children: Rosco, Chess, Main, Tommy, Richard and Precious.

Henry, the second oldest son, had seven children: Sterling, Buster, Dan, Robby, Lumpy, Maude and Ella Jane.

Boon (Daniel) and John Wesley (Sonny), the two youngest sons of Ezekiel and Jane, had no children.

by Adell Patton, Jr.

PAYNE - WEBSTER FAMILY

F245



Leo Richard Payne on the right. Other man is unidentified. Picture made ca 1918.

Calvin Thomas Payne, according to the September 6, 1850 enumeration in Maury County, Tennessee, was the son of Jaine Payne. The father was dead at this time and his first name is not known by the family.

Calvin, who was 19, and Lemuel, who was 21, were farmers. There were also twins; Olivia and L.L. (one of these names may have been Leo) who were 17, and Mary, who was 16.

According to military records in Tennessee, Calvin was a member of Company G, 9th Tennessee Cavalry, under Commander J.B. Biffle. He surrendered at Gainsville, Alabama, on May 10, 1865, and was then given an honorable discharge.

Sometime around 1870, Calvin and Lemuel came to what was then a part of Phillips County and bought 165 acres of land east of La Grange, on the road between Phillips Bayou and Helena. They farmed this land and became good friends with their neighbors, the John Lee family.

On November 14, 1887, Sarah Melinda Lee and Calvin Thomas Payne were married. The brother, Lemuel, died and was buried on the farm in a family plot.

The Payne children included Jonathan (Johnnie), who died as a teenager and is buried in the La Grange cemetery; and Mary, who married Ernest Williams, who was a lawyer from Warren, Arkansas. The Williamses had a son, John, who was the father of John Ed Williams, now of Blytheville, and

Urania on April 18, 1908. Lillie M. Ashby Wilson died March 9, 1926.

Robert Atterbury Wilson died on February 17, 1935.

Robert Atterbury Wilson's second son, Robert Santford Wilson, was reared in Adair County, Missouri by his Grandmother Shouse.

In 1905, Rosa Kilgore Johnson, (born August 30, 1882, in Alabama) whose husband and father had died of yellow fever, and her mother, Sally Manning Kilgore Wells (born June 30, 1861) and her husband, John Miles Wells (born 1854) traveled with their families from Sunflower County, Mississippi to Wellston, Oklahoma. Rosa had one daughter, Elena Johnson, born September 6, 1901 and Sally had one younger daughter, Fluella Wells (Mrs. John "Jack") Martin, born 1894 and died September 23, 1986. They traveled the Military Road through Helena, Arkansas, by covered wagon. Sally's brothers, J.W. Manning (father of Mr. Jess Manning of Marianna) and Pinkney Manning traveled with them.

The Wells purchased a general mercantile store in Oklahoma. Robert Santford Wilson met Rosa Kilgore Johnson while working at her step-father's store. They were married March 31, 1907, on Easter Sunday, at Chandler, Oklahoma.

To this union were born five sons and three daughters: Louisa, born May 8, 1908, (Mrs. Dave Goacher) who now lives in Hughes, Arkansas; Fluella, (Mrs. Sidney Key) born February 14, 1910, who lives near Marianna; John, born April 14, 1912 and died on November 10, 1982; Jessie, (Mrs. James Woodruff) born March 8, 1914 and lives near Marianna; Leo, born June 10, 1916, who now pastors a Baptist church near Marshall, Arkansas; Lloyd Arthur, born April 6, 1919, and lives in Marianna; Robert, born March 22, 1921, and now pastors a Baptist church in Marshall, Arkansas; and James, born April 17, 1924, who now lives in Bebee, Arkansas.

After living in Oklahoma, Robert Santford Wilson, with his wife and baby daughter, traveled by covered wagon to Hamilton Community in Lonoke County, Arkansas, about 1909. Their other children were born in Lonoke County with the exception of James, who was born in Prairie County near Hazen, Arkansas. During this period of time Robert Santford taught school and at times was school principal and a Baptist minister.

In 1929, Robert Santford moved his family to Lee County settling near Aubrey. Later he moved them to Moro and then to Marianna. During these years Robert Santford pastored churches at Aubrey, Brinkley and other places. He helped to organize the Aubrey Missionary Baptist Church. He and other members of his family were charter members as were Mr. and Mrs. Truman Walls, Mr. and Mrs. W.D. Wade, Mr. and Mrs. Jess Manning and others.

John Miles Wells died 1931; Rosa Kilgore Johnson Wilson died November 4, 1943; Sally Manning Kilgore Wells died 1952; Robert Santford Wilson died July 31, 1976; and all four were buried in Oak Grove Cemetery at Moro, Arkansas.

by Margie H. Wilson

WILSON, THOMAS FAMILY

F361

During the latter part of the 1800's, many Tennessee blacks believed that economic opportunities were greater in Arkansas. Oral traditions hold that Thomas Wilson, my maternal great-grandfather, migrated in 1895 from Bethel Springs, Tennessee, to Haynes, Arkansas, which was at the time the second largest city in Lee County. With a population of 350 in 1888, Haynes was a progressive and commercial center boasting five general stores, two drug stores, several mixed stores, a hotel, two blacksmiths and wagon shops, a millinery distribution center and one undertaker. The *Iron Mountain Railroad* (later *Missouri Pacific*) ran through the heart of town.

The Thomas Wilson family lived initially on the McRaymond Place just east of Bethel Springs, Tenn., before moving to the town where the family purchased a house from George Lamb, an in-law. The family stayed there until December 18, 1895, when they pulled up stakes and traveled to Arkansas on a train. Thomas Wilson's sister, Elizabeth Wilson Wade, had died, along with her husband, leaving behind four children: Earnest, Neal, Lee Andrew and Zoni, who became members of the Wilson extended family while in Tennessee and in Arkansas. The Wade children stayed with the Wilsons until they were grown. Earnest and Neal developed a competitive spirit and independence, which manifested itself in their thirst for learning. They entered Philander Smith College in Little Rock in the early decades of the twentieth century. Upon returning from college, they purchased a farm and shared their professionalism by teaching in rural schools, such as Shady Grove in St. Francis Co., and Spring Grove in Lee Co. And many of us learned from them. We affectionately dubbed them as "Professors", until one of them whipped us for a mischievous act.

In the meantime, Thomas Wilson experimented with a variety of land tenure arrangements, such as sharecropping and third and fourth. This did not last for long, for Thomas was indeed intelligent, enterprising and a man who envisioned the need to control his own labor. Several of his peers had already purchased small farms.

In 1900 the opportunity came, and Thomas did not hesitate in seizing the moment. Mr. Lawrence Graham, a white man, loaned Thomas $150 as a partial down payment on 109 acres on Cow Bayou, just east of Haynes. With $300 as the required down payment, Thomas either had the remainder himself or borrowed it. He bought the farm. The deed of November 17, 1900, shows a total cost of $650 for 109 acres, with a $319.50 due loan, which Thomas shortly paid. He purchased another forty acres from W.S. Hughes and another fifty acres from John C. Lynch. By around 1905, the Wilson family farm consisted of 203 acres, with some discrepancies here and there. Thomas was now among the 240,000 black farm owners, comprising nearly 16.5 per cent of all southern land owners.

In the last Will and Testament of Thomas Wilson, he left an inheritable estate. He signed the will on June 22, 1907, with an "X", which shows that literacy manifests itself in numerous forms.

by Adell Patton, Jr.

WOOD, JAMES E.

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James E. Wood with great niece Margaret Patte Wood.

The history of Marianna would not be complete if James E. Wood, the cocky little editor of the *Lee County Courier,* is not mentioned.

He was a son of Dr. George Wood, who came to Marianna in 1870 with his family from Bolivar, Tennessee. While his father was serving in the Civil War, James, age 16, ran away from home and joined the army. When the war was over, hearing about Arkansas' opportunities from his uncle, William Wood of Memphis, who owned land in Lee County, James came out in 1868, before the rest of the family moved. He came to Marianna in 1870.

He was engaged in general merchandise, until he began publishing the *Courier,* a weekly paper, enjoyed by many for its pithy news items. Editor Wood was not afraid to speak out when necessary, sometimes getting into trouble because of his views.

He was invited to be the guest speaker at two of the last Confederate Reunions, which was quite an honor for a small town newspaper editor. These two reunions were held in Atlanta and Houston, Texas. He was an Arkansas state senator for several terms, but the joy of his life was hunting and fishing with his young nephews and their friends. He died at the home of his sister, Mrs. Vincent Moore Harrington, in 1926. Nieces and nephews of Mr. Wood living in Marianna in 1986 are: Marcelle McClintock Brown, Clifton Harrington, Vince Harrington, Elisabeth Harrington, died in January of 1987. Georgia