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# Gems of Pike County Arkansas

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## ROBERT McCONNELL

Robert McConnell and his father Arthur came to what is now Montgomery County (Arkansas) in 1833 settling on the South Fork of the Ouachita River. Arthur homesteaded land two miles up-stream from Mount Ida and Robert homesteaded the land across the river opposite Mount Ida. He entered this land for patent January 31, 1843, and on the 12th of April, 1845 entered the SW 1/4 NW 1/4 Sec. 24, T. 2S, R. 25W which was plotted into town lots on May 28, 1845 and sold to Montgomery County as a new town site on January 7, 1846 by Robert and Sarah, his wife, for the sum of fifty dollars. Robert and Arthur's first documented evidence of living in what is now Montgomery County comes from the old Hot Spring County Tax Roll of September 6, 1834. Robert was appointed magistrate of Hot Spring County on October 27, 1835.

Prior to settling in Hot Spring now Montgomery County, Arkansas in 1833, Robert and Arthur McConnell lived in Hempstead now Pike County, Arkansas. In September 1833 Robert McConnell sold his improvement to Asa Thompson who came to Clark County in 1832 from Hot Spring County, Arkansas and had been the postmaster of the Wolf Creek post office situated on the public or military road close to Wolf creek in what is now Pike County, Arkansas near present-day Antoine. Asa Thompson moved immediately to the McConnell improvement located on the Clear Fork of the Little Missouri River. Asa Thompson was active in the erection of Pike County, Arkansas in November 1833 and was the first postmaster of the new Zebulon post office in 1834.

Origins of this family are believed to come from Arthur and Elizabeth (Wilson) McConnell of Hopewell Township, Washington County, Pennsylvania who lived in that area in the 1770's and 1780's. Arthur McConnell, Jr. moved to Ohio and met and married Nancy Miller February 7, 1798 in Adams County, Ohio. Robert was born in 1799 in Ohio and moved with his father down the mighty Ohio River to

a place near Cairo, Alexander County, Illinois about 1815. Robert was found in old Johnson County (now Alexander) in 1818 and 1820 with his wife and one daughter, and Arthur was there for a time before moving across the river to Livingston County, Kentucky. The family removed to near Old Washington, Hempstead County, Arkansas Territory about 1825 and lived there until its appearance in Montgomery County.

As previously mentioned the McConnells lived in Hempstead now Pike County, Arkansas prior to moving to Montgomery County, Arkansas. In 1830 the Hempstead County, Arkansas federal census indicates their neighbors were David Dickson, John Dickson, John Brewer, Oliver Brewer Jr., David Mayberry, Moses Newman, Swanson Yarborough or Yarbrough and Jordan White.

Early tax records and census give other names besides Robert who were children of Arthur and Nancy McConnell: James the second oldest, Wil-son, Arthur II, Thomas and Nancy. Nancy married Harrison Collier on July 30, 1835. Robert McConnell's wife Sarah (maiden name unknown) was born in 1802 in Kentucky and her marriage ... to Robert begat eight children: Nancy, Lucinda, James, Cintha, Miller, Emily, Robert Wilson and David. Nancy married Jesse Royal on May 14, 1836 in the county and both died in 1850. Lucinda married James B. Gaston on February 19, 1846 producing the county's Gaston Clan. James McConnell married Mrs. Harriet K. Howell on December 10, 1846 and died in March 1863 while serving in Company I, 33rd Arkansas Infantry during the Civil War. Cintha married Ransom J. Barber on July 31, 1847 and this family settled around the Sims area. Ransom was bushwhacked during the Civil War. Miller McConnell married Visa Elizabeth Davis about 1853 and this family moved to Logan County, Arkansas about 1874 living there twenty-three years before returning to Montgomery County in 1897 after

Miller's wife died. Miller served in Company I, 33rd Arkansas Infantry, during the Civil War. Emily married Harvey Stacey about 1857, moving to Brady, Texas and later to Glen Rose, Texas. Robert Wilson McConnell married Missouri Ann Garrett on April 19, 1858 and died March 25, 1862 while serving with Company F, 40th Arkansas Infantry. David McConnell married Louisa Jane Meredith on April 21, 1861. David served in Company F, 4th Arkansas Infantry, and on January 6, 1891 he married Nancy Hughes.

Miller (Mid) McConnell, the fourth son of Robert and Sarah, was married to Visa Elizabeth Davis and by this marriage were born seventeen children: William, James, Martha, Sarah, David, Wilson, Robert M., Henry, Harvey, Wiggins, Thomas, Mary Elzara, Martilla, M.T. (Bud), Cordelia, Julia and an infant son (name unknown). Miller's son James married Mary Ann Sharp on February 21, 1878 in Logan County, Arkansas and they had seven children: Matilda Elizabeth, Charlie, Adron, Jesse Robert, Ester, Mattie and Ezra.

Jesse Robert McConnell was this writer's grand-father and his children by the marriage to Nola Foster on February 26, 1911 were Foster, Rosadell Speer, Fern Hodges, and twins Doris Laspina and Dorothy Adams. Foster McConnell, Sr., married Cyril Swint on July 29, 1934 in Booneville, Arkansas and they had five children to their credit: Foster Jr., Mickey, Richard, Marsha Williams Pruett and Ronald McConnell, all with children.

Foster was married on May 15, 1971 to Shirley Bolich of Keiser, Mississippi County, Arkansas and they have four children: Robert, Steve, Rachel and Patrick. Mickey married Elouise Davis on May 11, 1960 and they have three children: Becky, Donna and Geneice. Richard married Sandra Kay Dedman on September 30, 1965 and they have two children, Richard Lynn and Sherry. Marsha McConnell Williams Pruett has two children: Kenneth Williams and Laura Williams by her former marriage to Kenneth Williams. Ronald McConnell has one child Rhoda by his marriage to Mrs. Jill Lindsey. She has two daughters, Carolyn and Patty, from her previous marriage.

**Montgomery County** Our Heritage. Robert McConnell by Foster W. McConnell Jr., pages 144-145. Additional information provided by the editor.

## WILL OF ROBERT McCONNELL

IN THE NAME OF GOD AMEN.

I, *Robert McConnell* of the County of Montgomery in the State of Arkansas being of sound mind and memory and considering the uncertainty of the frail and transitory life, do therefore make, ordain, publish and declare, this to be my last Will and Testament.

That is to say - first after all my lawful debts are paid and discharged, the rest and residue of my estate both real and personal (discharged) and next I give bequeath and dispose of as follows to wit:

1st. I will that if my beloved wife *Sintha McConnell* be living at the time of my death, that she shall have a plenty to live on during her natural life out of my Estate.

2nd. I give and bequeath to my daughter *Nancy Royal* and the heirs of her body the sum of fifty dollars.

3rd. I give and bequeath to my daughter *Sintha Barber* and the heirs of her body the sum of fifty dollars.

4th. I give and bequeath to my son *James McConnell* and the heirs of his body the sum of fifty dollars.

5th. I give and bequeath to my son *Miller McConnell* and the heirs of his body the sum of fifty dollars.

6th. I give and bequeath to son *Robert William McConnell* and the heirs of his body the sum of fifty dollars.

7th. I give and bequeath to my son *David Mc-Connell* the and the heirs of his body the sum of fifty dollars.

8th. I give and bequeath to my daughter *Emily Stacy* and the heirs of her body the sum of fifty dollars.

9th. I give and bequeath and devise all the rest and residue and remainder of my Estate both real, personal and mixed to my son-in-law *James Gas-kin (Gaston)* who married my daughter *Lucinda* and to the heirs of her body.

10th. I make, constitute and appoint my said son-in-law *James Gaskin (Gaston)* to be executor of this my last Will and Testament.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto subscribed my name and affixed my seal the 20(th) day of December in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-five.

ROBERT (his x mark) McCONNELL

Attest:

MARY ANN (her x mark) WILLOUGHBY  
WM. J. WILLOUGHBY

I signed the Testators name to this Will at his request and in the presence of the other witness, both of us having been called on by said Testator to witness his last Will and at the same time the said Testator published and declared this to be his last Will and Testament.

WM. J. WILLOUGHBY

One of the witnesses to said Will and Testament.

State of Arkansas  
County of Montgomery

The State of Arkansas to any Judge, Notary Public or Examiner in Garland County - Greeting:

Know ye that we are exposing confidence in your prudence and fidelity - do by these presents give you authority diligently to examine *Wm. J. Willoughby* and *Mary Ann Willoughby* the sub-scribing witnesses to the annexed instrument purporting to be the last Will and Testament of *Robert McConnell* deceased and first swearing them to testify the whole truth in the premises as to whether said instrument was signed by the said *Robert McConnell* as his last Will and attested by them as subscribing witnesses. That you cause said examination to be reduced to writing in the presence of said witnesses and by them subscribed and that you duly certify the same and return to this office attached to this Commission and the annexed Will.

Witness my hand and official seal this July 7, 1874.

G.W. GRAY, Clerk  
by G.D. GOODNER, D. Clk.

Deposition of *William J. Willoughby* and *Mary Ann*

*Willoughby* taken before *Alphozo Curl*, Notary Public in and for the County of Garland in the State of Arkansas at the residence of *Wm. J. Willoughby*, Esq. at the town of Hot Springs in said County of Garland between the hours of 10 o'clock a.m. and 6 o'clock p.m. on the 21st day of July 1874.

Touching an instrument of writing purporting to be the last Will and Testament of *Robert McConnell* deceased, late of Montgomery County in the State of Arkansas, personally appeared *William J. Willoughby* and *Mary Ann Willoughby* both to me well known, who being first duly sworn depose and say as follows, to wit:

*William J. Willoughby* states that on the 20(th) day of December in the year A.D. 1865, I was called on by *Robert McConnell* at the time residing near Mt. Ida, Arkansas in Montgomery County, Arkansas now deceased, to write his last Will and Testament and I did so and after writing the same I read it carefully over to him. He said that it was just exactly right. Just as he wanted it and at the request of the said Testator *Robert McConnell*, and he made his mark thereto. And he requested myself and *Mary Ann Willoughby* to bear witness to his having subscribed his name to his said last Will and Testament, all in the presence of the Testator *Robert McConnell* and in the presence of each other. At the same time the said Testator *Robert McConnell* subscribed said last Will and Testament he was of sound mind and memory and in every way qualified to make a proper and discreet disposition of his property. The said Testator then and there declared and published this to be his last Will and Testament heretofore made.

The instrument herewith filed and marked Exhibit "A" is the last Will and Testament of the said Testator *Robert McConnell* deceased, referred to in this deposition, the same having been examined by me before and at the taking of this deposition.

WILLIAM J. WILLOUGHBY

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 21st day of July 1874.

ALPHONZO CURL, N.P.

The said *Mary Ann Willoughby* being first duly sworn deposes and says, on the 20(th) day of December 1865, I was called on by *Robert McConnell* then

residing near Mount Ida in Montgomery County, Arkansas to witness his last Will and Testament and the said Testator *Robert McConnell* subscribed his last Will and Testament in my presence and in the presence of *William J. Willoughby* and I - and *William J. Willoughby* at the request of the said Testator *Robert McConnell* subscribed said Will and Testament as witness to his signature to the same in the presence of the said Testator *Robert McConnell* and in the presence of each other. The instrument of writing hereunto annexed and marked Exhibit "A" is the same identical last Will and Testament of the said *Robert McConnell* referred to in the deposition, the same was made to (examined by) me before and at the time of taking of this deposition.

MARY ANN WILLOUGHBY

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 21st day of July 1874.

ALPHONZO CURL  
Notary Public

State of Arkansas  
ss.  
County of Garland

I, *Alphonzo Curl*, Notary Public in and for said County of Garland, do Certify that the foregoing deposition of *William J. Willoughby* and *Mary Ann Willoughby* was taken before me and was read to and subscribed by them in my presence at the time and place and in relation to the matter mentioned. In the caption the said *William J. Willoughby* and *Mary Ann Willoughby* have been first sworn by me, that the evidence they should give in the action should be the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth - and their statements reduced to writing by me in their presence, no one being present, at the examination except the two witnesses and myself.

Given under my hand and Notarial Seal this 21st day of July. 1874.

ALPHONZO CURL  
Notary Public

The foregoing Will of *Robert McConnell* deceased, was presented for probate on the 22nd day of June A.D. 1874 and summons issued for *W.J. Willoughby* and *Mary Ann Willoughby* - and the said witnesses not appearing on the day mentioned in the summons. The foregoing commission to take depositions was

issued and forwarded to *Alphonzo Curl*, Notary Public of Garland County and upon the 25th day of July 1874, the Will and proof was filed in my office for the record of the same.

Witness my hand this July 25, 1874.

G.W. GRAY, Clerk  
by G.D. GOODNER, D.C.

Montgomery County, Arkansas Will Book A, pages 40-45. Published in "I Give and Bequeath" copied by *James M.* and *Lillian Hart*, 1604 Summer Street, Hot Springs, Arkansas 71901.

## RESEARCH BREAKTHROUGH

Melson Family

The following is from the microfilm records of the "Commission to the Five Civilized Tribes" or "Dawes Commission" that was formed in 1893 by the U.S. government to exchange lands of the five tribes for individual land allotments in Indian Territory (now Oklahoma). This information is taken from application file MCR 206 and is for Samuel G. Bittick (et. al.) son of Francis Bittick and Mary Ann Melson who once lived in Pike County, Arkansas. MCR stands for "Mississippi Choctaw Rejected." The claim was based on the 14th Article of the Treaty of 1830 also known as the treaty of "Dancing Rabbit Creek." It was rejected because there was not proof to show they qualified under Article 14.

The following is taken randomly from this file. It appears the original case prepared for the Department of Interior contained about 365 pages. The microfilm of file MCR 206 contains less, apparently a selection of the original documents.

### MCR 206 Samuel G. Bittick et. al.

This case contained the original application and testimony of Mary Ann Bittick. It is not found in the microfilm of case file MCR 206. In the final decision of the commission consolidating all the cases of this family, it says this about the application of Mary Ann Bittick. "The next in order of the above applications is that of Mary Ann Bittick and the record therein shows that on September 21, 1898 said Mary Ann Bittick appeared before the Commission at Ardmore, Indian Territory, and there made personal application for the identification of herself as a Mississippi Choctaw, claiming to be a descendant of Choctaw Indians who

resided in the state of Mississippi in 1830 and took advantage of the provisions of article fourteen of the treaty made between the United States government and the Choctaw tribe of Indians, concluded September 27, 1830 ... She claims descent from Rosa Ann Ballew, an alleged one quarter blood Choctaw woman, who married James Green (Guinn) Melson, a white man, and who are the parents of this applicant ... By the oral statement of the applicant, it is attempted to be shown that she was born in the state of Mississippi ... She does not state how much Choctaw blood she is possessed of, but states that her mother was a one quarter blood Choctaw. She attempts to trace her alleged Choctaw descent from her mother to her grand-mother Sarah Jones, and her great grandfather Tom Jones, who, she alleged was a full blood Choctaw Indian ... The records of the Commission show that the applicant herein, Mary Ann Bittick died on November 15, 1898."

Samuel G. Bittick appeared before the Commission at Colbert, Indian Territory (now Oklahoma) on June 12, 1900 and made personal application for the identification of himself and his three minor children. His testimony is represented by question and answer. These are excerpts. Samuel G. Bittick being first duly sworn by Acting Chairman Bixby, testified as follows:

Question: What is your name? Answer: Samuel G. Bittick. Question: What is your age? Answer: 52 years. He indicates his postoffice address as Ryan, Indian Territory and previously lived at Henretta (as spelled), Texas and was born in Arkansas.

Question: What is the name of your father? Answer: Francis Bittick. Question: What is the name of your mother? Answer: Nancy A. Bittick. He submits correction of mother's name Mary Ann Bittick to the commission on October 30, 1900.

Question: What was her name before she was married? Answer: Melson. Question: Did you ever know your grandmother Melson? Answer: I was very small when she died. I remember seeing her.

Question: Do you remember your uncle Melson, your mother's brother? Answer: Yes, I remember him very well. Question: Is he living or dead? Answer: Dead.

Question: When did you first learn or hear from your mother that she claimed to be part Choctaw Indian? Answer: Ever since I can remember. Some forty years ago, probably. Question: Did your uncle Melson make

the same claim? Your uncle Sol. Melson? Answer: I was too small to re-member.

Question: Do you desire the testimony of your mother Mary A. Bittick that was taken before the Commission at Ardmore on September 1898 to be considered as a part of your testimony? Answer: I do.

Samuel G. Bittick appeared again before the Commission at Muskogee, Indian Territory on December 20, 1901 offering additional testimony. Samuel G. Bittick, having been first duly sworn, upon his oath testifies as follows:

Question: What is your name? Answer: Samuel G. Bittick. Question: What is your age? Answer: I was fifty four last September. Samuel G. Bittick indicates his postoffice address as Ryan, Chick-asaw Nation, Indian Territory and was born in Arkansas. He says he moved to the Chickasaw Nation in 1898 and to Ryan he "thinks" in October 1898. He indicates he is the same Samuel G. Bittick who appeared before the Commission on June 12, 1900 at Colbert.

Question: What is the name of your father? Answer: Francis Bittick. Question: What is the name of your mother? Answer: Mary Ann Bittick. Question: Through which one of your parents do you claim your Choctaw blood? Answer: My mother. Question: Is your mother living? Answer: No sir, she is dead. Question: When did she die? Answer: She died in November, 1898. Question: How old was your mother when she died? Answer: To the best of my information, to the best of her information, she was eighty nine. Question: Where was your mother born? Answer: She always claimed to have been born in Mississippi within seven miles of Natches. Question: If your mother was eighty nine years old when she died, she would have been born about 1812? Answer: No sir, she would have been born about the year 1809. Perhaps I had better explain about her age. I stated that, that was the best information that I had and the best information that she had. The record sent us by my uncle Sol. Melson, a record of my mother's age, made out her mother to be about twelve years older than my mother, but I never did think that was correct for the reason that her mother was evidently more than twelve years older than her. But it showed there might be some mistake about her exact age.

Question: When and where were your father and mother married? Answer: I don't remember, they were married in Arkansas, but I don't remember the year

they were married in. Note: They were married February 7, 1833 by William Kelley, J.P. in Clark now Pike County, Arkansas.

Question: Whom did your mother get her Choctaw blood from? Answer: Got it from her mother, claimed to have got it from her mother. Question: What was your grandmother's name? Your mother's mother? Answer: She was named Rosanna Melson, her maiden name was Rosanna Balleu, B-a-l-l-e-u, that is the way I spell it. She married my grandfather and her name was Rosanna Melson after she married.

Question: Through whom did Rosanna Balleu derive her Choctaw blood? Answer: From Sarah Jones who married William Balleu. Question: Whom did Sarah Jones derive her Choctaw blood from? Answer: My mother said she derived it from Tobe Jones, a full blood Choctaw, or Tom Jones, generally called him Tobe. Question: Did she (Rosanna Melson, nee Balleu) ever go back to Mississippi after she moved from Mississippi to Arkansas? Answer: I don't know that, if she did, I don't know it.

Question: Did your grandmother, Rosanna Melson, own any land in Mississippi when she moved from there ... ? Answer: I don't know, but I think she did, that is I think my grandfather owned some land. Question: Your grandfather, James Green Melson? Answer: His name was James Gwin (Guinn) Melson. I don't know whether he owned land or not, I don't remember about that, don't remember of hearing my mother say whether he owned land or not. It would be guess work on my part, for I don't know for certain about it.

Question: How many brothers and sisters do you have? Answer: I just had one sister and no brothers. Question: What was her name? Answer: Leona Agnes. Question: Is she living? Answer: She is dead. Question: Whom did she marry? Answer: She married a man by name of Williams. Question: Did they have any children? Answer: They have one living child, John M.B. Williams.

Question: Was Mary A. Bittick the only child of Rosanna Melson? Answer: No sir. Question: How many brothers and sisters did your mother have? Answer: She had two brothers and some sisters. I don't know how many sisters. Question: Do you know where they are? Answer: They are all dead.

Question: Have you any co-relatives who have made

application for identification as Mississippi Choctaws as descendants of Rosanna Melson? Answer: I have a cousin who tried to make application at Ardmore in 1898 at the time my mother tried to make application. He had General Turner employed and General Turner died, and I don't think he has done anything since. Question: What was his name? Answer: A Milson, M-i-l-s-o-n. Question: Milson Bittick? Answer: No, Howard Milson. I don't think he and his children have done anything since. My other cousins I don't know where any of them are. He is the only one that is living near us. He made application but his application was not received. The Commission did not receive his application and did not receive my mother's application, but they both made out their applications and wanted them received and the Commission refused to receive them.

Question: On what ground then do you base your claim for identification as Mississippi Choctaws? Answer: Simply because my ancestors lived and died there. Question: Irrespective of any compliance on the part of those ancestors with the provisions of the fourteenth article? Answer: I don't know whether they complied or not. But my mother's grandmother (Sarah Balleu or Ballew, nee Jones) lived and died there.

Question: How old were you when you left the state of Arkansas? Answer: My father left there in 1852, and I was born in 1847. I was about four or five years old.

Question: Do you remember ever seeing your grandmother, Rosanna Melson? Answer: Yes, I just can remember seeing her. She was in bed sick and died at my father's house, and I wouldn't remember her then except for a little incident. I cut some fringe off her shawl and I remember her raising up in bed and scolding me and that is the only recollection I have of seeing her.

Question: When did you first hear your mother speak of having Choctaw blood in her, being part Choctaw? Answer: I can't tell you the date or the year but as far back as I can remember. I remember it ever since I was a boy about her talking about her Choctaw blood, talking to my father about it when I was growing up and frequently after I got to be a man, off and on ever since I was a boy. Question: When you were a child and when she was living with your father, did she or not ever desire to go to the territory and assert her claims as a Choctaw? Answer: Yes, I have heard her myself speak to my father a great many times and insisted upon going to the territory and proving up her

right, and frequently begged him to do so. Question: Would he or not consent to that? Answer: No sir, he always treated the matter lightly, and didn't want to go to the territory.

Question: Did you ever know any of your mother's brothers? Answer: I know Sol. Melson, my mother's brother, I knew him. I was at his house when I was sixteen or seventeen years old. That was the only time I ever remember now of seeing him. Question: Where was he living at that time?

Answer: He was living in Arkansas. Question: Did you ever carry on any correspondence with him after you grew up and became a grown man? Answer: Yes, he wrote to me several times. Question: How did you receive the letters? Answer: I got them through the mail. Question: Do you know what became of those letters? Answer: I saved some of them a long while. When I went to Henrietta, I think had three or four letters, and my office got burned and they went with it. Question: Is he living or dead? Answer: He is dead.

Question: Do you remember about when he died? Answer: No sir, I don't remember when now, it has been a good long while ago. Question: During his lifetime and in this correspondence to you and with you did he or not assert any claims as a Choctaw Indian? Answer: Yes, he wrote me several letters and wanted me to take steps to establish our right in the territory, claiming that we were Choctaws, and I remember that he stated in his letter(s) that we got the blood from the Jones family, that his grandmother was a Jones, that was the history. Question: What history did he speak of at that time of the Choctaw blood in the family? Answer: I don't remember now the particulars but I remember very distinctly about his saying that we got it from the Jones family, that his grandmother was a Jones.

Question: Do you not know whether your mother during her lifetime was recognized in the community in which she lived as being of Choctaw Indian blood? Answer: I think she was, that was my impression, because she talked about it a great deal, and talked to her neighbors about it. And she was always trying to hunt up the Jones that came into the community and see if they were part Indian. I have heard that among a great many of our neighbors. Question: Was it not a part of the history of your family that she was one eighth Choctaw Indian? Answer: Yes, traditional history. Question: How do you get your information as to the person from whom her Indian blood was derived? Answer: I get it from her, and I got the information about her grandmother from my uncle Sol.

Melson and I have heard one of my cousins say that his grandmother and my grandmother, he had heard talk about it lots of times. Question: Is that name Rosanna or Rosa Ann? Answer: It is Rosanna. Question: That is one name? Answer: Yes sir, one name.

Question: From whom did you derive your information relative to your mother's uncle Sol. Jones? Answer: I have heard my mother talk about him. Sol. Jones was my great uncle. I have just heard her speak about him staying all night with them. Question: What did she say about his Indian blood? Answer: She said he was Indian, part Indian. She claimed her grandmother was half Indian and Sol Jones was half Indian, he was her brother. Question: Do you know who Solomon Melson was named for? Answer: I was under the impression he was named for Solomon Jones, his uncle. Question: Was that Solomon Jones the Sol. Jones your mother said was part Indian? Answer: Yes sir, he was half breed Indian.

Question: Was this Tobe Jones you speak of, has he ever been known in the family by any other name? Answer: Mother said his right name was Tom Jones, but he was known by the name of Tobe. I have heard her speak about that being a nickname.

Question: Did she testify before the Commission prior to her death at Ardmore? Answer: Yes sir. Question: She was the same Mary A. Bittick whose testimony is on file in this case? Answer: Yes sir, the same Mary A. Bittick.

J.B. Snellgrove was called as a witness on behalf of Samuel G. Bittick et. al. and having been first duly sworn upon his oath testifies as follows:

Question: What is your name? Answer: J.S. Snellgrove. He says he lives in the Choctaw nation and his post office address is Colgate and he is fifty-three years old born in Arkansas.

Question: Are you acquainted with Dr. S.G. Bittick the principal applicant in this case? Answer: Yes sir. Question: Did you know the Bittick and Melson families in Arkansas? Answer: Yes, I knew the Melsons and also the Bitticks. I was well acquainted with Solomon Melson and also his brother that got drowned, Wash Melson. Question: When did you first know them? Answer: I knowed them when I was nothing but a boy and I knowed them until 1877 when I left Arkansas. I left Sol-omon Melson there.

Question: Did you know Mary A. Bittick after you came to Texas and after she moved to the territory? Answer: Yes sir, I met her several times. Question: Do you know about the resemblance between her and the Melson family? Answer: As well as I can recollect they are resembled pretty near alike. Question: Do you know what she claimed in her lifetime? Answer: She claimed Choctaw until she died. The last I seen her she was still claiming Choctaw.

Question: Do you know where it was generally understood that this family came from to Arkansas? Answer: It was understood there that they came from Mississippi. That was my understanding clear on up to 1877 when I left there.

Nettie Sinclair was called as a witness on behalf of Samuel G. Bittick et al. and having been first duly sworn, upon her oath testifies as follows:

Question: What is your name? Answer: Nettie Sinclair. She indicates her post office address as Ryan, Indian Territory and is forty nine years old next May. She previously lived at Austin, Texas and was born in Texas.

Question: When did you first become acquainted with Dr. Bittick's family? Answer: In 1870 or 1872. Question: Where were they living at that time? Answer: They were living in what is Delta county now, it was Hopkins county then. Question: Did you know Mary A. Bittick? Answer: Yes, everybody called her Aunt Polly. Question: How far did she live from you? Answer: About half a mile. Question: What relation did she sustain to Dr. S.G. Bittick? Answer: She was his mother. Question: Do you know whether or not she claimed to have any Indian blood in her? Answer: Yes sir, everybody said she did. Question: When did you first know that she claimed to be part Choctaw Indian or part Indian? Answer: As a general thing I used to hate the Indians worse than anything in the world. The Indians killed my daddy. And when I first married to John Sinclair I went to my father-in-law's house and she, my mother-in-law, told me not to be talking about the Indians that way because Aunt Polly was a good old woman but that she was part Choctaw Indian. Question: When was that? Answer: That was in 1872. Question: Did you ever ask her about it? Answer: Yes, one day when my baby was little I was at old man Sinclair's house and Aunt Polly was there, and I always looked on her that I didn't like her. And I remember very distinctly because she was sitting there

and so friendly, and I had my baby in my lap and I thought I would ask her, and I said: "Aunt Polly, are you sure enough an Indian?" And she said "Yes, I am Choctaw, part." Question: How long did you know her? Answer: I knew her about eight or ten years. Question: Where was she living at that time. Answer: It was Hopkins county then, but I knew her too after that got to be Delta county. Question: During all that time was she or not recognized in the community where she lived as being part Choctaw Indian? Answer: Everybody said she was. Question: Did she or not claim to be? Answer: She said she was, told me she was, for I asked her. Question: Do you remember whether she ever said anything about going to the Nation and claiming her right or not? Answer: I remember one time she was talking to old lady Sinclair and she said if she could get Frank (Francis Bittick her husband) to leave there she would go to the nation and prove up and get a heap better land than that and in a heap healthier country. Question: When was that? Answer: That was when people first said there was coal here, I don't remember when it was. Question: Do you remember her general appearance? Answer: Yes sir, she was a great big raw-boned dark looking woman. Question: What was the color of her hair? Answer: Just as black as could be, black eyes. Question: Did she show any traces of Indian blood in her appearance? Answer: Yes, I know she did, she looked like them and acted like them. Question: Do you know where she came from? Answer: Yes, I heard her say she came from Mississippi and about the Indians visiting them. Question: When was that? Answer: In 1872 when she used to be there. Question: What did she say about the Indians visiting her? Answer: She just said how they did and how they came there. Question: Did she claim to have any Indian kin folks. Answer: Yes, she said she had some Indian blood folks and she was glad they didn't come to Texas because the people in Texas hated the Indians so bad. Question: When was that? Answer: In 1872 in Hopkins county when she used to live there by us.

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**REVOLUTIONARY WAR PENSION  
FILE S31563**

*William Brown of Pike county, Arkansas*  
Part 2

State of Arkansas,  
County of Pike,

Sct.

On this 23d day of April in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and thirty-nine, personally appeared in open Court before the Honorable Pike Circuit Court now sitting, *William Brown*, a resi-dent of Thompson Township in the County of Pike and State of Arkansas, aged eighty-three years, who being duly sworn according to Law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7th, A.D. 1832:

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served wherein stated, viz.: He entered the said service as he has always (stated) that as a regular, and as he has stated in his original & first supplemental declaration - but he does not recollect of ever receiving any bounty in money or land or any promise of a bounty, hence, he thinks it more than probable that (he) might have engaged his service as, what is called a Select militia man, but he well recollects he first engaged his service to the United States for three years and next, for (the term of) the War. He is not well acquainted with the terms of designation in military affairs, having been raised and lived all his life in remote settlements which did not afford the means of education or general information.

That he entered the said service as a duty sergeant the first of September 1776 or 7 some 4 or 5 months after he engaged his service for the said three years - and served under General *Christie*, Col. *Sevier*, Capt. *James Robinson*, Lie(u)t. *Elijah Robinson*. He does not recollect his Major's and Ensign's names. When he entered the said service he resided in the district of East Tennessee, he does not know by what name the county might have been, but it was near Wataga Fort. The company he belonged to rendezvoused at what was then called Big Limestone Creek where they joined Genl. *Christie's* command - this was about the 8th Sept. 1776 or 7 - and from thence took up the line of march into the Cherokee Nation against the Indians, which lay west from Wataga Fort some 250 miles - there was no battle with the Indians on this expedition, there was however some terms of a temporary peace agreed upon between the Indian Chiefs and the commanding general. They returned home, that is, to Wataga Fort the last of February or first of March following, after serving a tour of six months and he thinks some few days; he don't recollect what number second tour or expedition he served on, as sergeant, as aforesaid, was under the same officers, as aforesaid, except General *Christie*, who was not along - Col. *John Sevier* having the command of the regiment which he thinks was called the 4th regt. He marched as

a sergeant in the said regiment from Wataga Fort on the last of August 1777 or '8 to Mobile which lay west of south from the said fort. On the march they crossed Clinch river and Highwassel, Telacoa and others whose names he does not recollect except the Mobile river on which they had a battle with the Cherokees at their main or big town in which six or seven white men were killed and several Indians, he does not know how many, and also killed a British superintendent to the Indians about whom there were a great many papers found which indicated his employment, and returned home about the middle of December of 1777 or '8; and on the return of the said regiment off this second expedition, they had a battle also with the Cherokee Indians at the Big Island Town on the Hotcheloochee River (or at least what was so called at that time) in which battle there were 18 white men killed - he does not know how many Indians - the Indians were defeated in both these battles. They then returned to Wataga Fort (the) 13th December 1777 or '8, as aforesaid, having served 3 1/2 months and with the same officers on a third tour or expedition as a private (having got tired of his office of sergeant and given it up) to Lookout Mountain which lay about 200 miles south of Wataga Fort, aforesaid. They started on this expedition on the first of May 1778 or '9 - they had a battle with the Cherokees at Lookout Mountain Town - five white men killed & 3 wounded - he does not know the number of the Indians killed, but there were a great many of them killed. They crossed (?) River and a small stream they called Lookout River - he does not know the right name of the said river - and he and the said regiment returned home some time in July; then next, following of the performing a tour of some two months and one or two weeks, they returned to the said Wataga Fort.

This declarant further states that before he started in any of the aforesaid expeditions, to wit, in August 1776 or '7, the Cherokee Indians attacked Fort Wataga which was then in the possession of the company to which he belonged commanded by the said Capt. *Robinson*. There were several Indians killed but no white men. In a few days after this attack there was a requisition made for all the men that could be spared out of the said fort when Lieut. *Elijah Robinson* was sent with about 20 men to join Col. *Isaac Shelby* at the Long Islands of the Holstein (Holston) River or about 20 miles below the said fort, this declarant was one of the number - and at this latter place they had a battle with the Cherokees killing a large number of them with a small loss on the part of the said regiment so commanded by the said *Shelby* - after (which) they

returned to the said Fort having performed a tour of 15 days. He says that between the First of May 1778 or '9 and Sept., same year, he was frequently ranging from the said Fort for 8 or 10 days at a time but don't recollect precise number of times and the number of days each time. And after his first three years engagement were expired, he engaged for the war as he first engaged - he has been of the opinion that he was a regular, but he might have had that impression from the length of time the inhabitants of that frontier section engaged themselves for - either voluntarily or as select militia. But after the aforesaid tours of duty he does not recollect of ever having been called out in actual service but kept in and about the said Fort Wataga except when he was out ranging in small bodies (?) (or bands) for from 10 to 20 days at a time under the command of a Lieutenant or an Ensign and this was very frequent. The inhabitants all forted in that section of country and all had to work the fields - soldiers as well as others - when they were not on an expedition or in the actual service. He knows he was not a substitute for any person and that he was not drafted into the service, that he never was promised or received a bounty but engaged freely and voluntarily for the period, aforesaid, as well as served the said specific times and in the said several capacities. He has no documentary evidence and knows of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to his said service. That his father *John Brown*, and his brother *Joseph Brown* were both in the said service at the same time he was and that his brother, aforesaid, as he is informed, is drawing a pension for his said services, aforesaid, and who lives in Lincoln County, Missouri and whose evidence he intends to try to procure before some court magistrate or officer in Missouri and have it sent on to the proper Department of War as corroboration of this, his declaration, as he knows of no means of procuring the said testimony here.

He was born in the year 1755 in Bedford Co. Va. He has no record of his age. When he entered the service he lived in the district of Tennessee (then part of N. Carolina). Since the Revolutionary War he has lived in Cocke County in E. Tennessee, in Oglethorpe County, Georgia, in Lincoln County, Missouri and now lives in Pike County, Arkansas. He thinks Genl. *Christie* was a regular officer, he does not know the fact. He does not distinctly recollect any other regiments than those above stated. He received a written discharge from the service signed by Col. *Shelby*, aforesaid, which being left at the house of one *George Parkerson*, was burnt up in his house which caught fire and was burned

down.

Persons who live in his present neighborhood that can testify to his character for veracity and their belief of his services as a soldier of the Revolution are *Jesse Jenkins & I. White*.

WILLIAM (his x mark) BROWN

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or an annuity - except the present, and he declares that his name is not on the Pension Roll of any agency in any State.

WILLIAM (his x mark) BROWN

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year afore-said.

D.S. DICKSON, Clerk.

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We, *Jesse Jenkins*, a clergyman and residing in Thompson township, Pike County, Arkansas and *Isaac White* residing in the same township & county, hereby certify that we are well acquainted with *William Brown* who has subscribed and sworn to the above declaration and that we believe him to be eighty-three years old, that he is reputed & believed in the neighborhood where he resides, to have been a soldier of the Revolution & that we concur in that opinion.

JESSE JENKINS  
ISAAC WHITE

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year afore-said.

D.S. DICKSON, Clerk.

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And the said Court does hereby declare its opinion after the investigation of the matter and after putting the interrogations prescribed by the War Department - that the above named applicant was a Revolutionary soldier and served as he states. And the court further certifies that it appears to him that *Jesse Jenkins*, who has signed the preceding certificate, is a clergyman, resident in Thompson Township, Pike County and that *Isaac White*, who has also signed the same, is a resident in the Thompson Township, Pike County and is a creditable person and that their statement is entitled to credit.

WM. CONWAY, Judge.

I, *David S. Dickson*, Clerk of the Circuit Court of Pike County and State of Arkansas, af(oresai)d, do hereby certify that the foregoing contains the original proceedings of the said Court in the matter of the application of *William Brown* for a pension.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand & seal of office this 23rd day of April, A.D. 1839, 63rd year of independence.

D.S. DICKSON, Clerk.

State of Arkansas,  
County of Pike,

I, D.S. Dickson, Clerk of said county, do hereby certify that the above was sworn to in open court on the 23rd day of Ap(ril), A.D. 1839.

D.S. DICKSON, Clk.

Affidavits of Martha Coker & John Hughes

In the matter of the application  
of Wm. Brown for a Pension.

State of Arkansas,

Sct.

County of Pike,

*Martha Coker* of lawful age being produced & sworn, doth depose and say: that she recollects of hearing the family & the neighborhood in which she was raised say of *William Brown*, of the af(oresai)d County and State, being a soldier in the Revolutionary War at the same time his father *John Brown* who has been dead some thirty years & his brother *Joseph Brown* who lives in Lincoln County, M(isso)uri was, and who (*Joseph Brown*) is now (as she is informed) drawing a pension from the general government. She further deposes that she has never heard it doubted but that the said *William* was a Revolutionary soldier of some grade, she don't know what. And further, this deponent sayeth not.

MARTHA (her x mark) COKER

Sworn to and subscribed this 2nd day of May, A.D. 1839.

D.S. DICKSON, Clerk.

State of Arkansas,

Sct.

County of Pike,

*John Hughes* being produced and sworn deposeeth and sayeth: that *Martha Coker*, who has made the above affidavit, is a creditable person and that her said affidavit is entitled to credit.

(Signed) JOHN HUGHES

Sworn to and subscribed this 2nd day of May, A.D. 1839.

D.S. DICKSON, Clerk.

I, *David S. Dickson*, Clerk of the Circuit Court of Pike County, Arkansas do hereby certify that the two persons whose names are subscribed to the above affidavits are both creditable person(s) & that their statements are entitled to credit.

In testimony whereof, I hereunto set my hand as Clerk and affix the seal of office at Murfrees-borough, Pike County, Ark., this 2nd day of May, A.D. 1839.

D.S. DICKSON, Clerk.

State of Missouri,

Sct.

County of Lincoln,

Be it remembered that on this 25th day of May in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and thirty nine, *Joseph Brown*, of the county aforesaid, who is a creditable person and worthy to be believed, on his oath, being produced & sworn before me, *Francis Parker*, Clerk of the County Court, in and for the County of Lincoln and State of Missouri, af(oresai)d, maketh oath, deposeeth and saith: That he has known *William Brown* of Pike County, Ar-kansas all his life. That he knows him to have been a soldier of the Revolution. That he served in a great many campaigns with the said *William Brown* from shortly after the beginning of the Revolutionary War (un)til the end of the same. That he was in the same company, regiment and command with him on several campaigns. That one of the said campaigns commenced about the first

of September 1776 or '7 against the Cherokee Indians west from Wataga Fort about 250 miles, under Genl. *Christie*, Col *John Sevier*, Capt. *James Robinson*, the Ensign's name not recollected and the major's name not recollected. He thinks the regiment was called the 4th and that the said campaign ended about the last of Feb(ruar)y or first of March 1777 or '8 - but which was a full six months campaign. There was no fighting on this campaign but some kind of treaty with the said Indians, that lay in that quarter. That the said *William* was a sergeant on this campaign for all this time. That the said *Will Brown* was on a second campaign in the same company with himself under al the aforesaid officers, except Genl. *Christie*. This second campaign commenced 1777 or '8. The regiment left Fort Wataga (Wawtawgah) in the latter part of August of this said year and marched to Mobile - they had a battle with the Indians in which were several Indians and a British Superintendent killed - and they returned home or to Wataga Fort the middle of December 1777 or '8. In this expedition the said *William Brown* held the office of a Sergeant - and they had a battle also at Big Island Town (called the battle of the Peach Orchard) in which 18 white men were killed - the Indians (Cherokees) were defeated in this battle. This tour was over three months. That the said *William* was also on a third tour under the same officers as in the last aforesaid tour in which he was only a private. They started from the aforesaid fort on the first of May 1778 or '9 and marched about 200 miles Sou(th) to Lookout Mountain where they had a battle with the Cherokee Indians in which there were a few white men killed and some Indians. They returned off this campaign about the middle of July of the same year.

That he, the said affiant, is now drawing a pension for services rendered with and at the same time the said *William Brown* was in the service, and for no other. That the said *William* before he went on any of the said tours of duty was frequently (?) ranging under proper authority (as he was in all the said tours by such) for 8 or 10 or 12 days at a time against the Indians. And after he had finished the said several tours and when he engaged his service for and during the War, he was very frequently ranging out from the af(oresai)d Fort for 15 to 20 days at a time under the command of a Lieut. or an Ensign. He can't (can not) say particularly how many, but not less than ten before peace was restored. And further, this deponent saith not.

JOSEPH (his x mark) BROWN

Sworn to and subscribed this day and year aforesaid, before me, *Francis Parker*, Clerk of the County Court in and for the County of Lincoln and State of Missouri.

In testimony whereof, I hereunto set my name as Clerk and affix the seal of office at Troy this 25th day of May in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and thirty-nine and of the Independence of the United States the 63d.

FRANCIS PARKER, Clerk.

**Revolutionary War Pension File** S31563, William Brown, National Archives. For Part 1 see **The Gems** Spring 1994, Volume 5, Number 2, pages 29-32.

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## RESETTING THE OLD LANDMARKS

A History of the Clark-Pike Missionary Baptist Association by Russell Pierce Baker (c) 1993

### Part 1

The Clark-Pike Missionary Baptist Association is currently composed of some twenty Missionary Baptist churches affiliated with the American Baptist Association and located in Clark, Hot Spring, Montgomery, and Pike counties in western Arkansas. Its historic roots can be traced back to about 1824 when the Little Flock Baptist Church was organized on the waters of the "Terre Noir Creek" near what is now Gurdon. This was the first Baptist church to be organized in western Arkansas. Little is known about it except that none of its records have survived and that it did not exist for very long. According to an early Clark county historian, its brief life was due to the restless disposition of its members, "who were ... (always) desirous of finding new homes and more success (elsewhere)." Its membership was so quickly and completely dispersed that by 1833 there were reportedly only two families of the Baptist faith left in the entire area.

However, within a few years, many new settlers moved into the rich bottom land along Big Deceiper Creek, west of Arkadelphia. With them were a number of Baptists who established the Mount Bethel Baptist Church in 1836. Some of the pioneer families in this church and community were the *Bozemans* and the *Brownings*. Its first meeting place was a small log building at the site of the Old Bozeman Cemetery just north of the Hollywood road. About the same time

another group of early settlers organized the Mount Gilead Baptist Church on Polk Creek west of Black Springs in what is now Montgomery County.

In the fall of 1836, messengers from these two churches met near Benton, Arkansas with those from four other Baptist churches from central, southern, and southwestern Arkansas to organize the Saline Baptist Association. By 1848 there were enough churches in the southwestern part of (the) association to form the Red River Baptist Association. Its field of labor extended through Clark, Hempstead, Lafayette, Ouachita, and Pike counties.

About that same time a number of new Baptist churches were organized in what was then Clark County. Both the Pleasant Hill Church, located southwest of Curtis and the Bethel Church, now located east of Glenwood in Pike County, were organized in 1848. Bethel Church is among the oldest A.B.A. churches in Arkansas and is the mother congregation of most of the churches within the Clark-Pike Association. It was first called Caddo Valley Church. Later the name was changed to Pleasant Grove. In 1861 it became Bethel Church. Its founding families came from old Mount Bethel Church. A church called Bethany was also organized near Gurdon about that time. A few years later a church called Little Missouri appeared in the same area.

The 1848 minutes of the Saline Baptist Association indicate that there had been three Baptist churches in Pike County for some time before that date. They were Pleasant Hill, Mount Pleasant, and Mount Lebanon. However, they were not represented at this session. Only Mount Lebanon Church sent messengers to the organizational meeting of the Red River Association later that year. This church appears to have been located in the northern part of the county, perhaps near Langley. During the 1850's a church known as Hopewell was also located in this same general area. Unfortunately, nothing else is known about Pike County's earliest Baptist churches.

Liberty Baptist Church was organized on Collier's Creek near Caddo Gap in Montgomery County about 1850. One of its founding members, *Jefferson Collier*, was reportedly the first white child born in the area in 1820. Union Baptist Church was organized in Northern Clark County 1855. It is now known as the Alpine Missionary Baptist Church. That same year Elder *Thomas F. Welch* and his family, new arrivals in Montgomery County from Tennessee, organized a church near the South Fork of the Caddo River north

of Glenwood. They named it Antioch. Later it was reorganized as the Oak Grove Baptist Church. It is located just south of Highway 240 east of Hopper.

In 1853 the churches in northern Clark, Montgomery, and Northern Pike counties withdrew from the Red River Association. For many years, this association was counted with those across the south who were strong supporters of Dr. *James R. Graves*, editor of the Tennessee Baptist, published in Nashville, Tennessee, in his defence of the old landmarks of the Baptist faith against the growing liberalism of his day. However, during its first six years the Caddo River Association's conservative, landmark stand was sorely tested. Soon after its organization, a bitter dispute arose between the churches of this association and those of its parent body, the Red River Association. It centered around the preaching of a pastor of the latter body, the Rev. *Samuel Kelley*. He was born in May of 1817 in what is now Southern Pike County. He moved to Illinois in 1838. While there he became a Methodist clergyman. A few years later he joined a Baptist church and was received into it upon his Methodist baptism. He was never immersed by the authority of a Baptist church. In 1848, while still in Illinois, he was ordained a Baptist preacher. The next year he returned to his boyhood home in Pike County. Within a few years he organized a church called Hopewell. Its exact location is now unknown. However, *Moses Brock*, one of its early members, owned land near the Saline Creek between Delight and Murfreesboro. This congregation called itself a Baptist church and it was received into fellowship of the Red River Association in 1851. It is not known what congregation this Hopewell church had with the later Hopewell church located in the northern part of the county.

About 1855, *Kelley* began "building up the Church of Christ," elsewhere. That year he helped organize a church called Friendship on or near the Antoine River somewhere south of Amity. Later that year, this church was admitted into the fellowship of the Caddo River Association. However it seems that it was not until the next session of the association that Rev. *Kelley* made an appearance. A son of Elder *Thomas F. Welch*, *T.J. Welch*, writing in 1894, recalled this eventful meeting. "*Kelley*" he wrote, "presented himself as a visiting minister from the Red River Association. He was extended the usual courtesy of being asked to preach to the assembled congregation of messengers and guests. During this sermon he recounted the rather unusual circumstances of his

having become a member of the Baptist church and a Baptist minister. He also quite openly, "advocated the doctrine of (the) final apostasy of those who have been regenerated." The next morning, the Association's very first order of business was to pass a resolution stating that the Caddo River Association was breaking all ties with the Red River Association for allowing within its fellowship a man like *Kelley*. The association also "unseated" the Friendship church from its fellowship for being associated with this preacher.

At this time the Red River Association was under the leadership of a number of men who were hostile to Dr. *Graves* and his landmark movement. Perhaps because of this, that body was slow in acting on the matter of *Kelley* and his heresy. In 1857 the Red River Association asked its sister association for more time to deal with the problem. However, the aggrieved brethren along the Caddo River were not disposed to allow for any delay. They renewed their demand that *Kelley* and all of those who followed his teaching be expelled from the Red River Association. It was not until the next year that a "trial" was held in which *Kelley* and his Hopewell church members admitted their errors and were disowned and expelled from the Red River Association. Friendship Church also drops from sight about this time. Following this action, the Caddo River Association voted to restore correspondence with its sister association.

After the Civil War, Rev. *Kelley* surfaced once again to trouble the Baptist churches of Pike and surrounding counties. This time his preaching took him into western Hot Spring County, where he became the Pastor of the Phillipi Missionary Baptist Church, located near Point Cedar. Within a short time this body, except for one lone member, adopted the heretical teachings of *Kelley*. This "departure from the faith" by the members of Phillipi church almost did what the Union Army failed to do during the Civil War, destroy the Caddo River Association. This body was unable to hold a session in 1868 because of community "excitement" over Rev. *Kelley* and his work. Phillipi became the nucleus of a new religious movement found only in Arkansas, called the Kelleyites. By the 1890's their churches had, "spread like a green bay tree through(out) Pike, Garland, and other counties in Arkansas." There are still four active Kelleyite churches in Hot Spring County and one in eastern Clark County. They are now known as the "Church of Christ: Instrumental," or Kelleyite Churches of Christ. Their beliefs are a mixture of Missionary Baptist doctrine and old style "Methodist"

teachings.

Part 1 of **Resetting the Old Landmarks**, A History of the Clark - Pike Missionary Baptist Association, courtesy of Russell Pierce Baker. To be continued in the next issue of **The Gems**.

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## ELIZABETH RAMAGE

Elizabeth Ramage (26 March 1791-29 October 1858) married Edward Wesson (12 August 1789-21 July 1859). During the 1850's they moved to Pontotoc County, Mississippi ... Both she and Edward Wesson are buried in the Cherry Creek Baptist Church Cemetery near Ecu in Pontotoc County. On Elizabeth's tombstone the following inscription can be found "Dau. of Capt. J. and E. Ramage." Elizabeth and Edward Wesson's children included:

Sarah Melvina Wesson (ca. 1813-19 October 1877) married Isaac Newton Cox (ca. 1815-ca. 1874). Sarah Melvina Wesson Cox died in Tippah County, Mississippi.

Henry Johnson Wesson (16 December 1815-28 October 1882) married (1) Emaline "Emily" Knight (8 August 1805-11 September 1872) and (2) Lou-isa Emmaline Parsons Tomlinson (4 December 1845-19 November 1933). Family moved from Newberry County, South Carolina to Pontotoc County, Mississippi and later to Pike County, Arkansas.

John S. Wesson (1819-1 May 1864) died in Tippah County, Mississippi.

Joseph M. Wesson (10 Jun 1821-18 September 1873) married Elizabeth Jane Chapman Rucker (14 March 1822-5 August 1904). Joseph M. Wesson died in Tippah County, Mississippi.

Martha M.H. Elizabeth Wesson (5 January 1828-9 September 1900) married (1) Richard Golding (20 August 1793-12 May 1863) on 28 November 1859 in Pontotoc County, Mississippi and (2) William Park (17 March 1808-31 January 1895).

L.P.C.Y. (Lettie) Wesson (1830-after 1880) married James Franklin Scott (11 March 1829-31 December 1880) on 28 January 1858 in Pontotoc County, Mississippi.

Edward A.F. Wesson (1835-15 July 1868) married Martha A. Grace (15 March 1844-6 June 1906) on 3 February 1857 in Hardeman County, Tennessee.

Northeast Mississippi Historical  
& Genealogical Society  
P.O. Box 434  
Tupelo, Mississippi 38802

The children of Henry Johnson and Emaline Knight Wesson included:

Rolla Wesson (a male born ca. 1840).

Lucinda Wesson (7 January 1840-3 March 1928) married (1) a Barrong; and (2) John W. Parr (31 August 1823-3 December 1910) on 14 March 1878 in Pike County, Arkansas.

Ephraim Wesson (born ca. 1843)

Emaline Frances Permelia Wesson (30 March 1844-9 February 1908) married (1) Asa Thompson Wingfield (13 July 1833-26 November 1864) on 29 March 1860 in Pike County, Arkansas; (2) James Franklin Kirkham (28 February 1844-22 March 1879) on 14 August 1874; and (3) William A. Buckner (born on 4 June 1835) on November 1884 in Pike County, Arkansas.

Eliza Wesson (born ca. 1846).

Edward Joseph Wesson (4 March 1848-11 June 1935) married Amy Mallisa Parman (6 November 1852-11 October 1929) on 2 September 1860 in Pike County, Arkansas.

The children of Henry Johnson Wesson and Louisa Emaline Parsons Wesson:

Calhoun (Callie) Wesson (28 November 1875-4 April 1863) married Thomas Absolum Horne on 26 December 1899 in Clark County, Arkansas.

Henry Kay Burton Wesson (7 January 1878-30 September 1959) married Emma Camelia Eas-terling on 11 October 1903 in Clark County, Arkansas.

Dar Key Z. Nell Wesson (24 March 1880-3 April 1958) married John Jay Webb on 9 October 1900 in Clark County, Arkansas.

Edna Theodosia Wesson (23 February 1882-28 January 1958).

**Genealogy of Capt. Joseph Ramage's Family** compiled by Martis D. Ramage, Jr., 4218 Ridgemont Drive, Belden, MS 38826; Elizabeth Ramage (excerpts), pp. 15-16. Elizabeth Ramage was the daughter of Captain Joseph Ramage and Elizabeth Bourland daughter of William and Mary Bourland.

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Dear Mr. Kelley,

Johnnie Cowart in California has passed the information concerning the Wesson family in Pike Co., AR that you had sent her on March 14, 1993. Thank you so much for the help you gave in providing us with the information you sent. It was so helpful to me in compiling the enclosed family history.

I wanted to send you the enclosed history for you to retain in your files. You will note that I have indicated those who migrated to Pike Co., AR on page 15 and 16. Please feel free to share this with anyone who might be interested.

Thanks again for the help you gave last year!

Sincerely,

Marty Ramage

Mark Harper  
Harver Hills # 130  
Malvern, Ark. 72104

I am researching my ROBINSON family. I have a copy of a letter by George A. Robinson of Bough-ton, Ark. dated Nov. 9, 1884. I was wondering if you have anyone in your organization doing research on the family. I would sure like to get in touch with them. G.A. Robinson was the son of Louisa Waters Robinson of Hot Spring Co. (Ark) & the brother of Joshua M. also David.

Mark Harper

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12/28/94

Tim Kirkham  
P.O. Box 2802  
Winston, OR 97496

Dear Dorothy:

I recently have discovered that one of the lines that I am researching, the Trout line ... (have) family ancestors ... buried in Story Cemetery located in (Clark

County). Elizabeth (Betsy) Ann Trout who was born in GA ... married ... Elijah M. Kirkham of Wolf Creek, Pike County, Arkansas. I would like to see if you might have some names along with addresses of any researching the Trout line originating in GA ...

Tim Kirkham

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Vayden H. Horton Jr.  
613 N. Houston St.  
Granbury, TX 76048  
28 Feb 1995

I recently came across a copy of the PCAHS (quarterly) and I have for years been trying to research my wife's family. "Per tradition" (Am-brose H. White) fought on the North side and after the (Civil) war he returned to Pike Co. and some of the boys from the south put him away. If this is so he is probably buried some where under the lake at Daisy state park as his (father's) property was in the watershed of the present lake. I am looking forward to receiving the PCAHS (quarter-ly) and hope you or some of your readers can help me find out ... about this White family. I am enclosing a copy of my computer record of Absolom White (father of Ambrose) and his family as I know it.

Vayden Horton Jr.

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Nadine Stevenson  
345 Tulip Street  
Fairfield, CA 94533

I have a possible connection to Abner Henderson Sr. in Wilkes Co. GA. A will of Elizabeth Webster, widow of Alexander H. Webster, men-tions brothers Isaac and Abner Henderson, sister Harriet, her Mother and Father, brother Abner W. Henderson, executor. Will probated 5 March 1832. The only other Abner Henderson I have found is in Robertson County, TN in 1820 and 1830 census, but this Abner was older than ours. Could be his father? I have searched North Carolina, South Car-olina, Tennessee, Kentucky, Alabama, and Mis-souri for an Abner, few found. Can anyone help?

Nadine Stevenson

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**CANTRELL, MORPHEW, SAMPLE, PAL-MER, POWERS(?), GOODWIN** I am research-ing the following names in the Pike/Clark Co. area, Amity, Antoine, Kirby, Redland, etc., in the mid to late 1800's:

L.D. (Little Daniel) Cantrell; Aaron & wife Nancy (Sample) Morphey; Ganer Prince & wife Cath-erine (Cantrell) Morphey; Wm. Hiram Isaiah "Ike" & wife Elizabeth Tipton (Palmer) Morphey; Au-gustus Henry & wife Sarah (Powers?) Palmer; (and) Junius P. & wife Mary (Goodwin) Palmer.

Also I need Federal Census information on the above for 1860, 1870, 1880 & 1890. Are there any State or specialty census(es) for that time period?

**Peggy Morphey, 13801 N. Tan Tara Drive, Sun City, AZ 85351-2239.**

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**JOHNSTON** Need maiden name of Isabella, wife of Micajah Johnston (Johnson) and mother of Ab-ner Wade Johnston (b. 1847 in Pike Co.) Micajah (Johnston) married Isabella about 1830 possibly in White Co., TN. Micajah Johnston was enumerated on the 1840 and 1850 U.S. Census in Pike Co. Micajah died in Aug. 1859 and Isabella was head of household on the 1860 U.S. Census. Abner Wade (Johnston) moved to Jack Co., TX before 1870 and lived there until his death in 1923.

**Karen Acker, 810 St. Andrews, Kingwood, TX 77339.**

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833 Oakwood Dr.  
Gretna, LA 70056  
June 15, 1995

Dear Dorothy,

I just received (the) Spring 1995 issue of the GEMS. On p. 38 is a piece about the "Seed Tick" school. Mary Ellen Barentine mentioned in this article was a sister to my grandmother Nancy Re-becca Barentine who married Charlie David Fox. Near the end of the Seed Tick article, mention is made of a book (?) **Alexander Barentine 1817-1890**, etc. by Alma Fay Stone. Since I am directly descended from these Barentines, I'd like to have a copy of this book. How can I get a copy?

Eunice Fox Fontenot

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August 7, 1995  
Eunice Fox Fontenot  
833 Oakwood Drive  
Gretna, LA 70056

Dear Eunice,

I purchased the book **Alexander Barentine 1817-1890**, etc. from John Y. Stone, 29990 South Bar-low Road, Canby, Oregon 97013 for \$27.50 in March 1989. Alma Fay Stone his wife and com-piler of the book died on April 4, 1988.

Mr. Stone indicated he had a number of copies left of her book at that time. I hope you will be able to obtain one.

Sincerely,

David L. Kelley

**WOODARD, KUYKENDALL** Did an Emily Woodard marry Monroe Kuykendall? Was there a son?

**Jo Billings, Rt. 5, Box 418, Nashville, AR 71852.**

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### ARCHIVE UPDATE

Two meetings have come and gone. The insert speaks for itself.

#### *Now Available!*

Pike County Marriages:  
Books G, H, I, & J (1925-1948)  
by Shane Hill & Dorothy Partain

Send \$15 check or money order to PCAHS; P. O.  
Box 238,  
Murfreesboro, AR 71958

#### *Update!*

The Pike County Picture Book will be available this fall. More details will be available in the next **Gems**.

The picture book is still in the final editing. Hopefully it will be ready by fall.

We are busy annotating the cemetery book. Cindy Scott feels it will be ready this fall. Cindy has a new address: Cindy Scott, 6693 Kodiak Drive, Fayetteville, NC 28304, Phone (910) 860-1806.

Shane Hill and I are well into the 1910 census. It will be ready by Spring. We want to express a very great gratitude to our Vice President Shane Hill. He is very able on the computer and is making all these new publications possible. We are very fortunate in having all our members and especially mention Shane Hill, David Kelley, and Cindy Scott.

### DOROTHY KENNEDY PARTAIN

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#### OBITUARY

HARRIS - Aminie Harris, wife of James Harris and daughter of Jas. and Flarrie Watkins, was born Nov. 9, '69 (1869) and died October 28, 1895. Aged 25 years, eleven months, and nineteen days. She leaves a husband, three little children, a father and mother, three brothers and four sisters, besides a large number of other relatives and friends to mourn their loss. She was twice married, first to Mr. Charlie Stewart, a son of our aged friend, Uncle Bye Stewart, to which union were born two children ... still ...

(remainder missing)

**Obituary courtesy of Shane Hill, P.O. Box 152, Delight, AR 71940.**

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Spring Valley School 1912-1914  
Leona Willingham, Teacher

#### PUPILS

Itha Hicks	Alvah Hicks
Lily Cox	Effie Bell
Carnell Garner	Mittie Cox
Garrie Hicks	Henry Garner
Ozero Garner	Leola Hicks
Joe Mitchell	Willie Wright
Columbus Cox	Irma Garner
Ira Cox	Harley Hicks
William Franks	Lettie Funderburk
Horace Meigs	Pinckney Hicks
Clyde Hicks	Georgia Garner
Alta Funderburk	Nora Hicks

Cora Bell  
Orpha Funderburk  
Carl Hicks  
Elvis Funderburk  
Ezra Hicks  
Artie Cox  
Allie Meigs  
Albert Collins  
Ira Garner

Eula Hicks  
Ercelle Hicks  
Willie Mitchell  
Ruel Funderburk  
Archie Hicks  
Nola Hicks  
Austin Cox  
David Hays

*Lest we forget  
our school associations  
this souvenir with best  
wishes is presented to you  
by your teacher.*

**Courtesy of Gertrude Raines, RR 1, Box 143,  
Murfreesboro, AR 71958.**

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**PCAHS PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE**

<b>"THE EARLY HISTORY OF PIKE COUNTY ARKANSAS - The First One Hundred Years"</b> , originally published 1978 - reprinted 1989, now includes INDEX and CORRECTIONS ...	\$12.00
<b>"CRATER OF DIAMONDS: Jewel of Arkansas"</b> published 1989 by Bobbie Hendrix ...	\$6.00
<b>"SWEET REMEMBRANCE - Caney Valley Childhood Memories of Flora Adelia Adams Cosby"</b> compiled by Karen Cosby Roy, published 1984 ...	\$10.00
<b>CEMETERY RECORDS of PIKE COUNTY ARKANSAS</b> , copyright 1986, several copies available ...	\$10.00
<b>"THE DIARY"</b> (Family History) by Carlton Denny of Delight, Arkansas ...	\$3.00
<b>1870 PIKE COUNTY ARKANSAS PRINTED U S CENSUS</b> by Dorothy Kennedy Partain - indexed, published 1987 ...	\$15.00
<b>1880 PIKE COUNTY ARKANSAS FEDERAL CENSUS</b> by Dorothy Kennedy Partain and Linda Willingham Meek, 222 pages including index, published 1992 ...	\$20.00
<b>A Reconstruction of the "1890" CENSUS OF PIKE COUNTY ARKANSAS</b> by Russell P. Baker ...	\$15.00
<b>1900 PIKE COUNTY ARKANSAS FEDERAL CENSUS</b> by Shane Hill and Dorothy Kennedy Partain, approx. 600 pages and full name index, published 1995 ...	\$25.00
<b>PIKE COUNTY ARKANSAS MARRIAGE RECORDS (1895-1910)</b> from Books A, B, C, by Linda Willingham Meek and Dorothy Kennedy Partain ...	\$15.00
<b>PIKE COUNTY ARKANSAS MARRIAGE RECORDS (1910-1925)</b> from Books D, E, F, by Linda Willingham Meek and Dorothy Kennedy Partain ...	\$15.00
<b>PIKE COUNTY ARKANSAS MARRIAGE RECORDS (1895-1925)</b> combined set Books A-F, by Linda Willingham Meek and Dorothy Kennedy Partain ...	\$25.00
<b>PIKE COUNTY ARKANSAS MARRIAGE RECORDS (1925-1948)</b> from Books G, H, I, J, by Shane Hill and Dorothy Kennedy Partain ...	\$15.00
<b>BACK ISSUES of "THE GEMS of PIKE COUNTY ARKANSAS"</b> Volumes 1-5, Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4 (4 issues each volume) ...	Each Issue \$2.00 Each Volume \$8.00
<b>INDEX TO VOLUME 1</b> , Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4 of <b>"THE GEMS" of PIKE COUNTY ARKANSAS</b> ...	\$3.00
<b>INDEX TO VOLUME 2</b> , Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4 of <b>"THE GEMS" of PIKE COUNTY ARKANSAS</b> ...	\$3.00

**1995 ANNUAL PCAHS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

Please make check or money order payable to Linda Wilson, Treasurer of PCAHS and mail along with the following information to: Linda Wilson, Treasurer of PCAHS, P.O. Box 179, Delight, AR 71940  
 Regular Annual membership rate is \$7.00, Senior Citizens annual membership rate is \$5.00 and Lifetime membership rate is a one time fee of \$100.00

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_ TELEPHONE (Area Code + Number) \_\_\_\_\_

Are you interested in HISTORY \_\_\_ GENEALOGY \_\_\_ BOTH \_\_\_ ? Please mark one or both of the above. If you are interested in genalogy please list the Surnames you are researching below or if you need more space, use a separate sheet of paper and mail along with your membership application. You are also encouraged to include a Pedigree Chart and Family Group Sheets with your Membership Application. All surnames submitted to PCAHS will be placed in our Surname File. Queries submitted to "THE GEMS" are FREE to members and will be published as space permits. Please be specific when writing your query regarding names, dates, places and the information you are seeking.

**SURNAMES BEING RESEARCHED**

\_\_\_\_\_

**PIKE COUNTY ARCHIVES and HISTORY SOCIETY**

PRESIDENT	Harrison Gilmer, Rt. 1, Box 334, Murfreesboro, AR 71958
VICE-PRESIDENT	Shane Hill, P.O. Box 152, Delight, AR 71940
SECRETARY	Shirley Graves Martin, Route 4, Box 135 M, Nashville, AR 71852 Telephone (501) 285-2752
TREASURER	Linda Wilson, P.O. Box 179, Delight, AR 71940
EDITOR	David L. Kelley P.O. Box 1135, Salt Lake City, UT 84110 Telephone (801) 359-0938
CO-EDITOR	Dorothy Kennedy Partain P.O. Box 238, Murfreesboro, AR 71958 Telephone (501) 285-3528

**PCAHS MEETING TIME**

The Pike County Archives and History Society meets the first Thursday night of each month from 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm in the Murfreesboro Municipal Building. The 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm time period is set aside for members and guests to discuss and exchange ideas on history, genealogy and effective ways to do research. Business meeting is held from 7:30 pm to 9:30 pm. Annual membership dues are \$7.00. If you are 65 years old or older, you are eligible for our "Senior Citizens" discount membership of \$5.00 annually. Lifetime membership dues are \$100.00.

The Pike County Archives and History Society was founded in 1986 and is a non-profit organization dedicated to the purpose of collecting and preserving primary source materials which bring together the unique history of Pike County, Arkansas and its people. The Pike County Archives is located on the third floor of the Pike County Courthouse in Murfreesboro, Arkansas and the Heritage Room at the Library in Murfreesboro. Library hours [Tuesday-Friday, 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.]. The PCAHS courthouse hours [Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.]. If Court is not in session call first: Harrison Gilmer 285-3187 or Linda Wilson 379-2471 or Dorothy Partain 285-3528. Helpful telephone numbers: Pike County Clerk's Office [501] 285-2231; County Judge [Courthouse] [501] 285-2414; Mayor's Office for Library [501] 285-3732.

*" ... you must know the past - to determine the future."*

**Pike County Archives and History Society**  
**P.O. Box 238**  
**Murfreesboro, AR 71958**