



***The Glade Community Historical Society, Inc.***  
***Including Glade, Garfield & Pine Log, Arkansas***

**A 501 (c)(3) CHARITY**  
**[www.gladehistory.org](http://www.gladehistory.org)**

**Glade Post Office & Store, circa 1890**  
**20659 Slate Gap Rd., Garfield**

## **2022 NEWSLETTER # 3**

**The purpose of the society is to preserve the histories of the communities by researching and gathering stories, documents, and artifacts.**

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**JOIN US JULY 24 AT 3 PM AT COAL GAP SCHOOL FOR TOUR OF MUSEUM, JENNINGS FORD ROAD & DESSERT**

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The first Ozark immigrants were mainly from Tennessee, Kentucky and southern Appalachia and most were descendants of Scotch-Irish stock. White settlers continued to push westward as Indian displacement persisted between 1830 and 1850. The first arrivals in the Ozarks selected prime land followed by farm families who settled along rivers and creeks. Some people squatted for awhile when land was \$1.25 an acre, or less. Large numbers of Germans immigrated to the Ozarks and Italians settled in Washington County around 1900.

Glade in Benton County Arkansas settled close to White River. It was a farming community that built and supported Coal Gap School. Other settlements near White River were Mundell, Rocky Branch, War Eagle, and Pine Log. One room school houses provided subscription education before the Civil War when schools closed. After the war ended, Arkansas state legislators passed laws that provided tax supported public schools in Arkansas, and Benton Country did so around 1868.

“Jennings Ferry-LaRue-Jennings Ferry” operated before the Civil War, officially 1858-1866, but its exact date of closing are unknown as clear records do not exist. After the war, LaRue was established in the same locality in 1867 and for a time was on the same site that Glade occupied. According to Handling the Mail in Benton County, 1836-1976, Abner Jennings ran a ferry across the White River from 1858 until the Civil War interrupted his activities. That Post Office was known as Jennings Ferry, No records indicate where the post office was housed or if

it was on the ferry or on the east or west side of White River. LaRue (renamed Larue in 1886) was established as a post office immediately after the Civil War by Mary Bland at John Bland 's farm home near the site of the old Larue post office. No woman had served as a postmaster in Benton County before the Civil War.

For a time, Mundell and Coal Gap School were linked. Mundell was across White River and just inside Carroll County but it was moved into Benton County in 1896. Coal Gap was a large district, and for some reason, in 1889 the county school board took its six sections nearest the Carroll County line and established a new district called Pumpkin Center, near Knox's Ferry. It operated for a few years but, Pumpkin Center students lived on both sides of the river and Glade youngsters had to cross the river to attend school, and it was often difficult. They county recognized the problem by 1900 and the Benton County board assigned all of the Pumpkin Center land area that was west of White River to be returned to Coal Gap, and the land area east of White River was assigned to Mundell School in Carroll County. The old Union Chapel Cemetery was behind the Mundell Union Chapel school, but was in the path of Beaver Lake. Now linked again, Union Chapel Cemetery shares space at

the Ruddick Cemetery at Garfield. It includes graves from the following cemeteries: Bowman, David, Ash, Mix, Kelley, Moon and Tarr. They were moved in 1961 and the Memorial bell was placed at Ruddick Cemetery in 1966.



Before the Civil War, many people were illiterate, but parents wanted their children to go to school. For years, children walked to local schools and carried their lunches. Schools in the community often served as the community building and church where funerals, pie suppers, revivals, children's day programs, debates, business meetings and elections occurred. Water was available at the well below Coal Gap School and could be manually pumped. The separate male and female outhouses (now decomposed), were built by the Works Project Administration (WPA) following the depression. Some school terms

were as short as three months if community members did not have sufficient funds to maintain the school for a longer period.

The rugged rural roads to Garfield, Rogers and Eureka Springs were seldom traveled, but below Coal Gap School, White River could be easily crossed during the summer months by wading or riding horseback to go to the Larue store, the War Eagle Mill, or to Rocky Branch School. Yet, it was treacherous when the river flooded and spread into the valleys. When the bridges and roads were covered, the Glade community was completely isolated until the water receded. Forest fires were another potential hazard and fires were fought by local volunteers because the area was so remote.

There were few vehicles in the rural areas before or after the depression and families did not have the money to make a daily trip to town for their youngsters to attend high school. Some local students who desired more education repeated the eighth grade in their local school. Parents could not afford to board their teenagers in a nearby town and a student's education often ended after eighth grade, but some students wanted to learn more. In 1924, a three months Subscription School was offered at Rocky Branch for the older grades. Each day, Lucy Williams, Arlie Fine, Homer Rayon and Cleva Douglas crossed White River by boat and continued walking Blackburn road to Rocky Branch School. In those days, subscription schools prepared one to become a teacher, but Lucy had to go to work the last two weeks of school and Cleva quit as traveling alone with males was not considered proper. Cleva's mother was a widow and money was tight, so she walked barefoot for a mile to Coal Gap until age 14 or 15. She married at age 16. College was not required to teach, but a teacher's proficiency test was given twice a year at Bentonville where a first, second and third grade teaching certificate was granted based on test scores.

The federally submitted post office proposal of 1903 requested "White River" but the feds insisted on "Glade" for its "area geographical feature." After the Glade store and Post Office closed in 1945, Austin Cline transported the mail from Garfield to Glade each Monday through Saturday. Locals were happy to see him and retrieve mail from all mailboxes on Slate Gap road. Glade neighbors walked up and down hills to retrieve their mail several times a week.

The newspaper was one day old when it arrived in Glade, but people wanted information about world events. Back in the days when newspapers published local news, each community had a correspondent who mailed community happenings to the Rogers Daily News to publish. Usually, the correspondent was a female and that's how people knew what was happening in the county in the days before Facebook.

The Rural Electrification Act of 1936 was legislated by President Franklin Roosevelt and required years of construction as it crossed many hills and hollows to spread electricity to rural America. In Glade, electric lights and refrigeration were welcomed. As more vehicles appeared, traveling increased during the fifties.

Many young lives changed in 1949 when Glade District No. 105 was closed because it was smaller than 350 students. First, Glade was annexed to Garfield District No. 114, then seven weeks later, Garfield was annexed to Rogers District No. 30 and Glade students attended the Garfield School through the sixth grade while the higher grades were bused into Rogers. After many generations, consolidation allowed students who had attended Coal Gap School to obtain a public high school education at Rogers High School.

As Beaver Lake rose, the roads to Prairie Creek disappeared, and Slate Gap Road and Highway 127 became the only route into Garfield on unpaved roads followed by additional miles to Rogers for a long bus ride. It required the Garfield/Glade students to be dismissed from Rogers Public Schools an hour earlier than other students, so they could return home before dark, but in the winter the darkness of night often arrived first.

Glade Historical Society Board: Sam Reynolds, Treasurer; Ruth Billingsley; Kendra Taylor; Judi Walter, Secretary; Dorothy Williams; Larry Hanner; and Pat Heck, President.

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**Remember: Join us July 24 at 3 pm at Coal Gap School**