



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

A 501 (c)(3) CHARITY
www.gladehistory.org

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

2022 NEWSLETTER #1

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

After the Louisiana Purchase in 1803, European Americans began to move into Northwest Arkansas. The Arkansas legislature established Benton County in 1836 and Bentonville became the county seat. Bentonville was first called Osage because the Osage Indians lived in Missouri and hunted there. The Osage relinquished their last rights to the area about 1825 and moved to Oklahoma Territory. Benton County and the town of Bentonville were named in honor of Thomas Hart Benton, a senator from Missouri who strongly supported Arkansas statehood. Bentonville was the seventh post office in the county, and through the years included many notable residents. One was James Berry, born in Alabama. The Berry family moved to

Carroll County where James learned to read and write. He attended the Berryville Academy and joined the Confederates and fought in the Battle of Pea Ridge. He served as the fourteenth governor of Arkansas and spent twenty-two years of service as a US Senator. He sought equal justice of races and colors; and wanted to cut costs by holding federal and state elections on the same day, but he opposed giving women the vote. His statue is in James Berry Park, adjacent to the Bentonville cemetery.

Colonel Samuel West Peel, also of Bentonville, was the first native Arkansan elected to the United States Congress. His 1875 Italianate mansion was surrounded by 180 acres. Apples supplied their major crop. He married Mary Emeline in 1853 and their home, The Oaks, known for its many trees, required 22 years to complete. The home was neglected for years, but refurbished, it is now a piece of Arkansas history known as the Peel Mansion Museum and Heritage Garden.

President Andrew Jackson's Indian Removal Act of 1830 demanded their departure to Oklahoma Territory. Five tribes passed through Arkansas. In 1836 thousands of Cherokees traveled through Benton County on what became known as

The Trail of Tears. Bentonville did not see Civil War Battles, but both armies occupied the city, and almost all its buildings were burned. In 1873, the town began rebuilding.

By 1860, about twenty-five percent of Arkansas's population was enslaved. Arkansas joined the Confederate States of America in 1861 and returned to the union in 1868. Emancipation occurred because of the American Civil War. Records show that 5,526 Black soldiers from Arkansas served in the Union Army. Northwest Arkansas loyalty was divided during the war, but many people were more interested in making a living than fighting. Until 1915, all mail was delivered by horseback or horse drawn vehicles. As the apples industry ended, the county became a leader in poultry production in the 1920's and 30's.

The town of Pea Ridge was occupied first by Bluff Dwellers and then Mound Builder Indians. The Osage and Quapaw Indians roamed northwest Arkansas and the Quapaw's farmed the land before the government removed them. White settlers began staking claims in Pea Ridge sometime before Arkansas statehood and continued through the 1850's. Pea Ridge became one of the first college towns in Arkansas and had its own post office by 1850. Today, the Pea Ridge National Park is a renowned

national attraction.

One of the first developments in Benton County was War Eagle Mill, built in 1832 by Sylvanus and Catherine Blackburn. The first mill was ruined by heavy rains in 1848 and the second mill burned during the Civil War. The third mill was burned in 1924, and the fourth mill was built in 1973. A post office, War Eagle Mill, was established in 1876.

Married at 16 in Tennessee, the Blackburn's moved to Benton County, Arkansas, and built a grist mill, a sawmill, the county's first school and a blacksmith shop in the 1830's when land was just five cents an acre. The Confederates burned the mill two days before the Battle of Pea Ridge. The elder Blackburn's went to Texas during the Civil War, and their sons joined the Confederate army. Mr. Blackburn also provided the lumber that built Old Main at the University of Arkansas where it still stands today.

Rural farmers were very isolated, but communities needed mail service and Glade's Post Office was first established by Abner Jennings in 1858 as the Jennings Ferry Post Office. Mr. Jennings also built the Jennings Ferry on the northern side of the river to provide transportation across the White River to La Rue and War Eagle. The Civil War disrupted mail service and the Federal government discontinued Jennings Ferry Post Office in 1866 and 1867 during the war, and it reopened as the LaRue Post Office on the south side of the river after the war. In 1868 it became the

LaRue/Jennings Ferry Post office, but in 1886 a Post Office was reestablished on the north side of the White River, and in 1903 the government officially named it Glade. Simon McGinnis operated the post office in the days when the main road in the area was from Eureka Springs to Prairie Creek to Rogers and came through Glade. The Glade Post Office & Store was moved to its current site at 20659 Slate Gap Rd in 2015, and now serves as a museum.

Settlers arrived in the Garfield area in the 1800's and Sugar Creek provided mail to the area in 1837. Crowell Post Office opened in 1881 and operated until 1887 when it became the Garfield Post Office. The city of Garfield was incorporated in 1888. Railroads were developing in the late 1800's, including passenger and freight service, to towns and cities off the main routes. Garfield had a train depot in 1884 and it was during the first of the twentieth century that passenger travel peaked. The Garfield elementary school is on Highway 62, and it is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Rogers was incorporated in 1881 and was named after Captain Charles W. Rogers, vice president and general manager of the Frisco Railroad. Downtown Rogers began paving streets in 1912, completing them in 1924. Rogers was known as a Sundown town, banning Blacks from staying in town after sundown. The Stroud family had a retail store in Pea Ridge in 1879 and purchased a dry goods store in Rogers in 1887. Stroud's remained in business for 109 years, and in 1962 Sam Walton, opened his first location in Rogers. Today, Walmart is the largest retail company in the world with over 2 million employees worldwide. In 2011 Alice Walton established a world class collection of American art at Crystal Bridges Museum in Bentonville, Arkansas.

Bella Vista was originally occupied mainly by native Americans and was their primary hunting and fishing ground. Isolated farms survived the Civil War and locals supported both sides of the war as the bushwhacking and guerrilla operations occurred. Bigger battles raged outside Bella Vista. After the war, more families moved into the valley and Bella Vista became a summer resort. Today the population exceeds 29,000 residents.

Siloam Springs, originally named Hico, was established in 1881 and is known for Sager Creek and its spring waters. During

the Civil War, the town dealt with both the confederate and union armies and rebuilding was slow. Once known as a summer health resort, it was followed by a thriving apple industry in 1900. The railroad connected to Siloam Springs out of Rogers in 1908 and John Brown University was established in 1919. Siloam Springs advertised itself as a Sundown town. Today, its population of more than 17,000 people is very diverse, with the opening of the Cherokee Casino in 1994.

History connects us to our past and provides a path for our future. Historical Societies provide that glimpse into history. Preservation is usually completed by volunteers. Please plan a visit to one or more of these local historical societies in 2022: Benton County Historical Society (www.bentoncountyhs.com), Bella Vista Historical Society www.bellavistamuseum.org, Rogers Historical Society (rogershistoricalmuseum.org), Pea Ridge Historical Society & Museum (www.prark.org/histsoc.html), Siloam Springs Museum, www.siloamspringsmuseum.org and the Glade Community Historical Society & Museum, www.gladehistory.org. Please check out their websites and plan a personal visit.

Glade Community Historical Society (GCHS) dues are \$25 annually and can be mailed to Sam Reynolds at 20916 Slate Gap Rd., Garfield, Arkansas 72756. If you are not already a member, please consider joining. Our next GCHS quarterly meeting (depending on covid19 restrictions) will be at 3pm Sunday, April 24, 2022, at the Lost Bridge Village Community Room, 12477 Slate Gap Rd., Garfield, Arkansas. We sincerely thank you for you continued support and look forward to seeing you there!