

Glade Community Historical Society, Inc.
including Pine Log and Garfield, Arkansas



Glade Post Office

*A 501 (c)(3) Charity
www.gladehistory.org*

2023 Newsletter #2

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

History helps us understand the ways in which society and its culture evolve. It reveals change and continuity. Sometimes history remains untouched and sometimes it is modified. Let's look back.....

Arkansas Territory split from Missouri Territory on July 4, 1819 and three presidents; James Monroe, John Quincy Adams and Andrew Jackson were appointed to serve Arkansas territory until Arkansas was admitted to the Union on June 15, 1836. The first governor of Arkansas was James Conway. During those days, many new territories opened and people kept moving west.

Northwest Arkansas was a part of that westward expansion. The same year that Arkansas became a state, Bentonville opened its first post office in 1836 and the Garfield area was one of the routes of the Trail of Tears that Native Americans passed through in 1838 and 1839. From Springfield, they entered Arkansas just north of Garfield near Herd (Gateway). Before the time of the railroad, drovers stopped at "Trotts Stand" (Brightwater) with cattle on their way to the railroad at Sedalia, Missouri.

Those pioneer trails were rugged when the Butterfield Overland Express stagecoach traveled through much of Arkansas. One of their Arkansas stops was at Elkhorn Tavern once a week. That area of the Civil War battle ground (Elkhorn) was first settled by William Ruddick who came from Indiana in 1834. He was the first post master at Sugar Creek Post Office which was near Elkhorn Tavern in 1837.

From 1858-1861, Elkhorn Tavern became the stagecoach stop for Butterfield's Overland Mail route that operated and transported mail and passengers westbound between Saint Louis, Missouri; Memphis, Tennessee and San Francisco, California. At Elkhorn tavern they changed horses and dropped area mail. It was their first stop in Arkansas, and during that time, the Elkhorn tavern building was used as a trading post, a voting place and a post office.

Butterfield's Overland Mail was the route of the longest stagecoach operation in history and it opened the door to more western growth. Though it was more than 150 years ago, the old historical Butterfield Trail is back in the news as it received additional recognition when the United States Senate passed legislation in December 2022, submitted by Senator John Boozman, to designate Butterfield Trail as a National Historic Trail. Its historical significance has been spotlighted.

Mrs. Francis Cox Scott (1865-1960) recalled her grandfather, Mr. Jesse C. Cox built the first Elkhorn Tavern. Bushwhackers burned it following the big battle and it was rebuilt in 1865. The original foundation and chimney, built by slaves, still stood after the tavern burned and was incorporated into the rebuilt tavern. The lumber for the building was hauled by oxcarts from the Van Winkle Mill at War Eagle.

A physical disability kept her father out of military service, and while the battle raged March 6,7,8 of 1862, the family stayed in the basement for three days and nights while blood oozed through the floor. The tavern served as a hospital for the North and the South. Later her mother told her that the bodies were so many outside that they came flush with the window sills.

“When the terrible battle ended and my grandparents came from the cellar, a ghastly scene lay all around them...There were bodies of men and horses scattered all over....guns and sabers and the like, too. Even the trees were scarred and disfigured,” granddaughter Maxine Miracle Wasson, reported.

After the war, when Francis was 12, she would follow the men who were digging up the bodies of the soldiers to be reburied at the National Cemeteries at Fayetteville and Springfield, Missouri. Her mother threatened to switch her if she continued, and she stopped following them after she saw that one body was uncovered and his eyes were partly open and she saw his very white teeth. She ran screaming to her mother and said. “He grinned at me! He looked right at me!” That was her last trip to go with the grave diggers.

Elkhorn Tavern discontinued in 1881 after the coming of the railroad and the Garfield railroad depot was in existence by 1884. Mrs. Frances Cox Scott continued to live in the tavern until it was purchased for the Pea Ridge National Park, and she moved to her daughter’s home in Garfield.

Garfield School was built sometime before 1889 and in the years that followed there were 10 rural schools that were annexed to Garfield. Then, Garfield consolidated with Rogers but Grades 1-5 remained in Garfield while the other students were bussed to Rogers after 1948. But, in 2023 the Garfield building was not considered up to Rogers School code, and the community learned all students would be bussed to Rogers after 2024. But, recent changes in the Arkansas education law of 2023 may allow a charter school at Garfield for Grades 1-5.

Historical figures returned to the news in Fayetteville, too. In 1840, Archibald Yell was elected as the second governor of Arkansas and his name has resurfaced several times through the years. In 2022, the Fayetteville City Council voted to change the name of Archibald Yell Boulevard to Nelson Hackett Boulevard in June, 2023. The backstory is that Nelson Hackett escaped from slavery to Canada, where slavery was abolished. He arrived successfully, but abolitionists wanted him returned, and Governor Archibald Yell insisted that he return to the United States. Upon his return he was publicly whipped, tortured and sold back into slavery in Texas.

Arkansas seceded from the Union on May 6, 1861 and was admitted to the Confederacy twelve days later. Thousands of Ozark residents served in wartime as Union or Confederate soldiers, home guards or irregulars, but most people in the region experienced the war as civilians and suffered major losses. Soldiers of both armies plundered farms of food, livestock, gardens and more. Tension was high across Arkansas and Little Rock, the state capital, was captured on September 10, 1863. A Union government was installed in its place. After the war, Arkansas was readmitted to the Union on June 22, 1868.

Back in the Northwest corner of Arkansas before the war, James Henderson Berry’s family moved from Alabama to Carroll County when he was seven, but he had little education until his father enrolled him in the Berryville Academy at age 17. In 1861 he joined the Confederate army and fought in the Battle of Pea Ridge in 1862. During the War, he lost his right leg above the knee and was captured. After the war he taught school at Ozark and met his wife there. In 1866 he won a seat in the Arkansas House of Representatives and he passed the Arkansas Bar and moved his family to Bentonville. He is buried in the Bentonville Cemetery.

His brother in law was Colonel Sam W. Peel, who had clerked in Carroll County, Arkansas. He married Mary Elaine Berry in 1853. He enlisted in the Confederate army, fought at the Battle at Wilson Creek and the Battle of Prairie Grove. He was admitted to the bar in 1865 and moved his law office to Bentonville. He became the first native-born Arkansan to be elected to the United States Congress. By 1890 he retired from law and organized the First State Bank of Arkansas. Peel built The Oaks, a Italianate home in 1875 in Bentonville. It fell

into disrepair before its renovation as the Peel Museum and Botanical Garden in 2004 and it is open for tours. The mansion includes period pieces and artifacts of the 1800's.

Both Peel and Berry served in the U.S. Congress and shared a law practice. Berry served as a judge and became the fourteenth governor of Arkansas January 13, 1883 till January 15, 1885. In those days, the legislature decided who would become a senator and Berry was chosen in 1885 and remained until 1907. He died of heart failure on January 30, 1913 and is buried in the Bentonville Cemetery.

A monument of James Berry stood on the Bentonville square since 1908 and was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1996. Protests led to the statue's removal from the square in September 2020 and he is the first Confederate monument to be moved and still remain on the national register. A groundbreaking for the James. H. Berry park, adjacent to the Bentonville Cemetery, was planned for Spring 2023. The Arkansas United Daughters of the Confederacy own the statue and the Benton County Historical Society owns the park. The park design phase is nearing completion and the park will be open to the public.

The Glade Community Historical Society incorporated November 14, 2011 to collect histories and artifacts of Glade and surrounding communities. The current Board of Directors: Patricia Heck, President; Sam Reynolds, Treasurer; Judi Walter, Secretary and board members Dorothy Williams and Ruth Billingsley.

The Glade museum is open upon request and the public is invited to four meetings a year, plus four newsletters each year. Annual dues are \$25.

Our next general meeting is Sunday, April 23, 2023 at 3 pm at the Lost Bridge Community Room on Whitney Mountain. Our speaker is Mr. Mark Wheeler who has been a tour guide at Pea Ridge Military Park since 1995, and he teaches history and tactics to Army and Marine officers.

Mark will share stories about the Civil War at Pea Ridge. He will discuss the streets of the City of Pea Ridge that are named after soldiers that fought in the battle in March 1862.

Refreshments will be served!