

*DEDICATION*  
of  
CIVIL WAR MARKERS AND JACKSONPORT STATE PARK





*The Program Committee wishes to give thanks and credit to the many people who have made this program possible: our advertisers, sponsors, and those who have loaned pictures and given information. And we also wish to express appreciation for the patience and co-operation for our printer, Roy Evans.*

*Note: The program for the day's event is between page 35 and page 36.*

**COVER:** *A scene depicting the Surrender of the Confederate Army of Northern Arkansas, at Jacksonport, June 5, 1865.*

*Drawing by Lady Elizabeth Luker.*



# *Souvenir Program*

*presenting*

Glimpses and Highlights of the  
135 Years of Jackson County History

*published by*

The Jackson County Historical Society

*in honor of*

The Centennial Observance of the Surrender  
of the Confederate Army of Northern Arkansas  
at Jacksonport, June 5, 1865

*and the*

Dedication of the Jacksonport State Park

June 5, 1965

## **Program Committee**

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## JACKSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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The Jackson County Historical Society was organized Nov. 30th, 1961, and the first regular meeting was held at the Billingsley Memorial Library, Newport, January 12th, 1962. There are 252 Charter members. The Charter Board of Directors were: Lady Elizabeth Luker, president; Robert Harvey, vice president; Myrtle Gaddy, secretary-treasurer; Nell Childers, librarian; Lucile Taylor, Ells Huff, and Faye Holt, directors.

As a major project, the Society bought the old court house and landmark at Jacksonport with publicly donated funds, and has since that time worked toward its restoration and use as an historical museum representative of this area.

Rep. Lonnie Etheridge and State Sen. Robert Harvey introduced bills in both houses of the state legislature to designate the court house square and other property, including the historic steamboat landing at Jacksonport, as a state park. The bill was passed and the grounds were deeded to the Arkansas State Parks Commission in the spring of 1964. Mr. and Mrs. Lairs Miller have been caretakers of the park since restoration began.

Many people have contributed to the success of the restoration, and have also presented the history of Jackson County in a wide scope of programs. The Society publishes a quarterly booklet, "The Stream of History". James Morgan is editor and has done excellent and painstaking research for the Society.

Van Manning was second and past president. Under his administration most of the land for the state park was acquired, with Leonidas Mack and P. K. Holmes in charge of transactions and publicity.

Lady Elizabeth Luker has served as chairman of the Restoration Committee for the Jacksonport Courthouse. With careful study of the original specifications she has spared neither time nor trouble in the effort to restore the building in a sound and authentic manner. Growing interest has led many people to give items illustrating the 135 years of Jackson County history for placement in the museum.

Mrs. Luker is the daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. O. D. Watson of Newport. Her maternal grandparents were Maj. Gen. James F. Fagan and Elizabeth Rapley, both from pioneer families of Little Rock. Her paternal grandparents were E. L. Watson and Elizabeth Caldwell of Jacksonport and Newport.



*Thoughts on the close of the Civil War Centennial*

## The South Reviews Its Heritage

Father Ryan once said "The land without ruins is the land without history. The land without history is the land without memories." And the South, a land rich in memories that both bless and burn, is something more than merely a brave and lovely land whose spirit goes from heart to heart and brings to other loves and other lands and other loyalties the same exultant eagerness it brings to ours. No man or woman can look upon that tragic era that in our youth was simply known as "The War", but what comes to us all the tales of Pea Ridge, Marks Mill, Jenkin's Ferry, Poison Springs and those times when our State soil ran red with blood. And of Chicamauga, of Ringgold Gap, and Cleborne has disregarded his orders and camped with the river at his back, and now before day has forded the river and is preparing to hold the Gap at any cost, with Bragg's wagon trains and artillery just 3 miles ahead. Forty-one hundred bayonettes and 2 small Parrott guns to hold both Hooker and Grant. What of Resacca and Tunnel Hill? What of the Stand at Dug Gap; and there is Stoney Face Mountain and New Hope Church and cheers of Victory or of Brice's Cross Roads and Forrest has bellowed back down the line "Tell Bell to come up fast and fetch everything he's got." Now it is Joe Johnston's army and it is moving like a well-oiled machine and spirits are high. The Hundred Days Battles. Now it is Hood and Davis' tragic order "To hold Atlanta." What of the fight at Peach Orchard Creek? What of the impetuous Hood feeding gaunt skeleton regiments into those slaughter pens at Franklin. And Cleborne is dead. For these things and many more are part of our heritage.

For all of these things that have come to us, we are as Colonel Tomlinson said, grateful. Grateful we come of men who believed in something. Men who held life a light thing to lay down in the faith they bore. They were terrible in battle. They were generous in victory. They rose up from defeat to fight again and while they lived they were formidable. There were just not enough of them. That is all.

We should pay tribute to forebearers who followed the Confederate Battle Flag and gave their lives or survived to take up the works of peace. The Confederate story should be told for all people. It should not be the vehicle of bitterness or recrimination but with justice, and without any closing of eyes to the historic facts even when they are adverse to the South or some of its civil or military leaders. It should be made known to generations separated by long years from the lives of those who passed through perilous and anguished times.

We of the South should have understanding of the most heroic and terrible days in our history, not to make us fiery pleaders for the Confederate cause or for the South, but to endow us with vision to survey the sweep of events and to put those events in true perspective and to see that great drama in the clear light of truth.

Neill Bohlinger, Past National Commander-In-Chief,  
Sons of Confederate Veterans

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# Jackson County, Arkansas

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Myrtle Gaddy  
*County Supervisor of Schools*



COURTHOUSE, NEWPORT, ARK.

Jackson County, created in 1829, lies at the foothills of the Ozarks on the White and Black rivers. It is one of the most accessible locations in the state, traversed in early times by the Great Southwest Indian Trail and where the Missouri Pacific Railroad and National Highway 67 now follow approximately the same path. Nine state highways and a municipal airport connect with these and seven motor freight lines service the county.

In addition to the rivers, twenty lakes provide beauty spots and recreation in the midst of rich bottom land plantations. A prime hunting ground for Indian tribes, the county is still famous for White River Catfish and is on a major flyway for migratory fowl of all kinds.

Twenty-nine industries and a growing livestock business now add to the abundance of agricultural produce of cotton, rice, soybeans, wheat and native pecans. With a population of 22,843, the county is listed as one of the most prosperous in the state. Churches of all denomination of the Christian faith, two hospitals, four banks, an excellent public library, five school districts, a modern country club at Newport and a host of friendly, Southern people make Jackson County a delightful place to live.

Jackson County judges who have had a part in the 135 years of steady progress are:

Hiram Glass, 1830-32; Elijah Bartley, 1832-33; John Robinson, 1833-35; David C. Waters, 1835-36; John Roddy, 1836-38; D. C. Waters, 1838-42; Obediah M. Stephenson, 1842-44; John Robinson, 1844-50; John H. T. Webb, 1850-52; Andrew J. Lankford, 1852-54; J. C. Johnson, 1854-56; Hiram D. Casey, 1856-58; John C. Kirkpatrick, 1858-62; A. J. Lankford, 1862-68; T. J. Randolph, 1868-72 (Pres. Board of Supervisors); John Creagan, 1872-74 (Pres. Board of Supervisors); John W. Stayton, 1874-78; J. W. Phillips, 1878-84; William H. Jago, 1884-86; M. M. Stuckey, 1886-92; Leroy D. Smith, 1892-94; L. Lippman, 1894-96; J. M. Jones, 1896-1900; W. O. Scarborough, 1900-1902; J. M. Jones, 1902-04; Edwin L. Boyce, 1904-08; H. S. Simmons, 1908-10; Charles B. Coe, 1910-14; W. D. McLain, 1914-19; J. A. Melville, 1919-23; J. F. Parish, 1923-26; F. M. Pickens, Sr., 1927-30; W. A. McCartney, 1931-34; L. L. Mack, 1935-40; J. F. Ball, 1941-44; Claude M. Erwin, Sr., 1944-45; David J. Nance, 1945-48; Joseph G. Armstrong, 1949-52; W. O. Hulett, Jr., 1953-58; J. A. Williamson, 1959-66.

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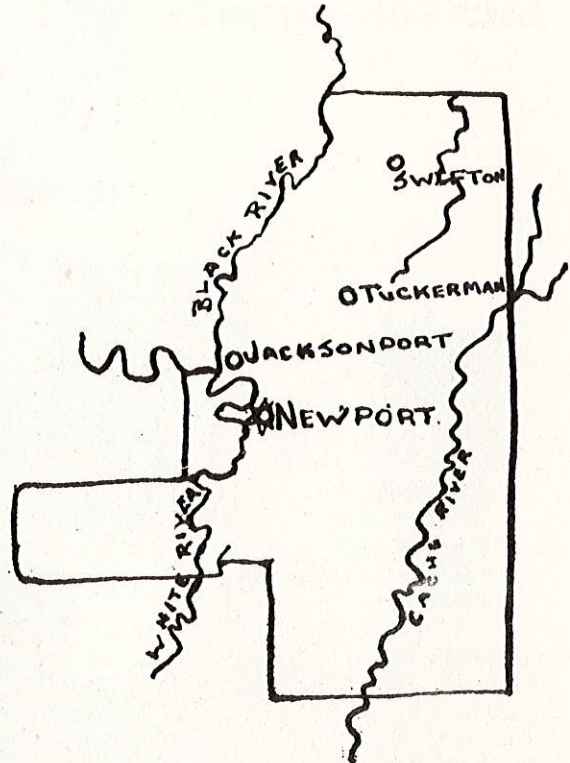
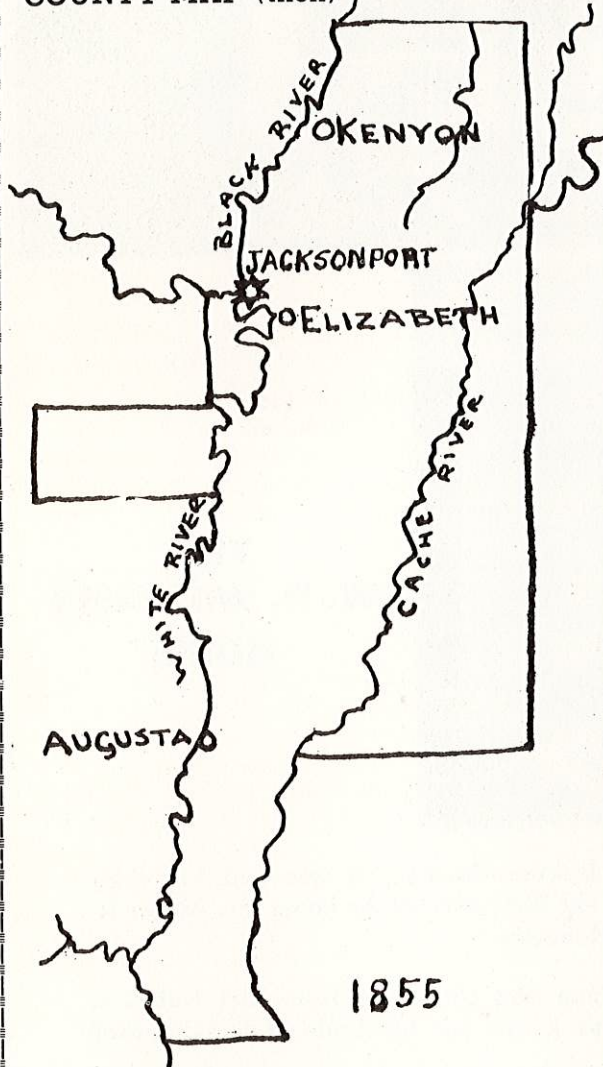
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# JACKSON COUNTY

COUNTY MAP (then)

COUNTY MAP (now)



## Biggers Cleaners

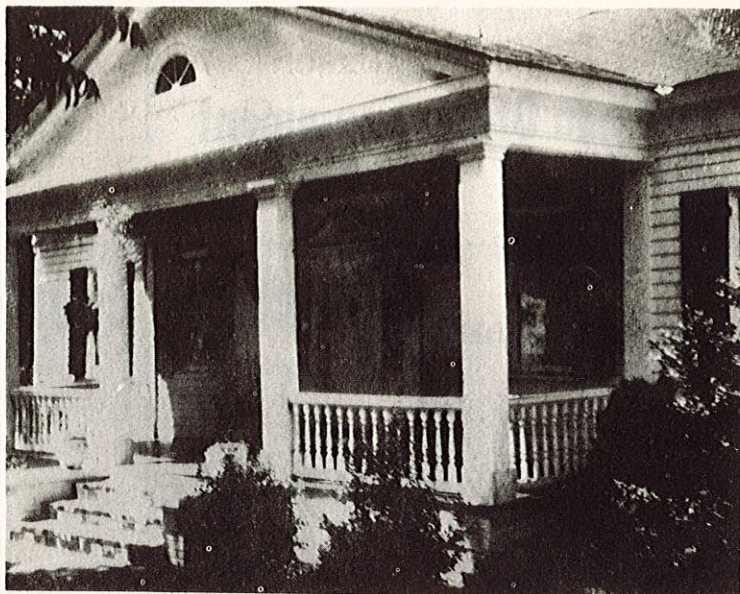
Harry Biggers  
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## Sterling Stores

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## **ANTI-BELLUM HOME IN JACKSON COUNTY**



## **THE W. D. WILLIAMS HOME**

This house is the oldest residence in Jackson County. It was built of virgin cypress in the late 1830's by slave labor. The first owner of the house was Alexander Robinson, grandfather of the late George Robinson.

W. D. Williams, Sr. purchased the house and plantation from Mel Robinson and father of George Robinson, in 1870 as a gift for his bride, Julia Cromwell Williams.

In the mid 1880's, after the death of W. D. Williams, Sr., Frank Barnes, uncle of W. D. Williams, Jr., occupied the house and used part of it for prisoners used for farm labor.

Five generations of the Williams family have called this house home. The present owner is Julia C. Williams Harper.



## ● JACKSON COUNTY ARKANSAS ●

### CREATION

Jackson County was created by an act of the Sixth Territorial Legislature of Arkansas, signed by Governor John Pope at Little Rock on November 5, 1829. This act struck off a portion of Independence County, made this territory into a new county (called Jackson), set up the basic machinery of its county government, gave the new county a part of the funds in the Independence County treasury, and designated the residence of Thomas Wideman as the place for holding courts in the new county until a permanent seat of justice could be selected. The act went into effect on December 25, 1829.

The Independence County territory of which Jackson County was made consisted of Taylor's Bay Township (all of Independence County east of White and Black Rivers) and part of Christian Township. The southern part of Taylor's Bay later became part of Woodruff County. Much of the territory west of White River in the original Jackson County is now part of White County.

### BOUNDARY CHANGES

In 1835 a part of Jackson County was included in the new White County. In 1836 a part of Independence County was attached to Jackson. In 1851 a part of St. Francis County was attached to Jackson. In 1862 Woodruff County was created, chiefly from Jackson County. The external boundaries of Jackson County have remained the same since 1862.

### TOWNSHIPS

Barren Township (called Hester for a while) was created in 1850 from the southern part of Oil Trough. Bateman Township was created in 1907 from the portion of Jefferson Township west and south of White River. Bird Township was created in 1835 from Village Creek Township. Breckenridge Township was created in 1840 from Village and Taylor's Bay. It was originally called Wideman Township, but the name was changed to Breckenridge in 1849. Bryan Township was created in 1913 from Breckenridge Township. Cache Township was created in 1842 from Village. Cow Lake Township was created in 1867 from old Bayou Cache. Glaize Township was created in 1856 from Barren. Glass Township was created in 1884 from Bird. Grubbs Township was created in 1885 from Village. Jefferson Township was created in 1848 from Village. Richwoods Township was created in 1854 from Cache. Union Township was created in 1854 from Village. Village Township was created in 1830 as Village Creek Township. The name was changed in 1835.

Townships not now in existence include: Taylor's Bay, the original township, name changed to Bay in 1840, included in Woodruff County in 1862; Red River, created in 1830, most to White County in 1835; Oil Trough, created in 1837 from territory attached to Jackson County from Independence in 1836, plus part of the original County west of White River, discontinued in 1850, when the southern part was made into Barren, the northern part being attached to Jefferson; Bayou, created in 1842 from Breckenridge and Taylor's Bay, divided in 1859 into Bayou Cache and Bayou Devew; Washington, created in 1851 from territory attached to Jackson County from St. Francis in that year, included in Woodruff County in 1862; Des Arc, created from Washington in 1854, included in Woodruff County in 1862; Bayou Cache, created in 1859 from a division of Bayou, some to Woodruff County in 1862, some included in Cow Lake; Bayou Devew, created in 1859 from a division of Bayou, to Woodruff County in 1862.

### SPONSORED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE JACKSON COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

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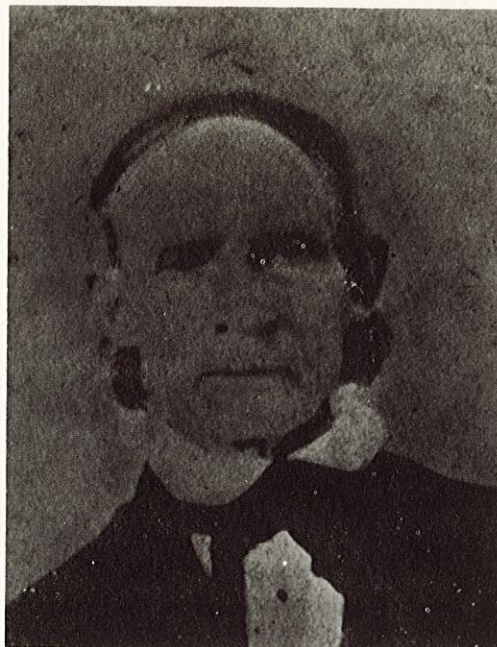
Kaneaster Hodges



John Robinson (1790-1864) came to Jackson County in 1831 in a party led by his father, John Robinson, a Revolutionary soldier. He settled between Newport and Litchfield.

Robinson was active in politics for a number of years. His chief political contributions to Jackson County were his service as county judge (1833-35 and 1844-50), delegate to the constitutional convention (1835), and county surveyor.

After the beginning of the war between the States, Robinson removed to Texas, where he died in 1864. Some accounts say that he died while imprisoned by Union forces.



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### THE ROBINSON PARTY

In the fall of 1831 a group of settlers from Tipton Co., Tenn., led by John Robinson, arrived in Jackson County. This group, called the "Robinson Party," brought a surveyor, preacher, schoolteacher, lawyer, and various craftsmen.

John Robinson was a Revolutionary soldier, and his motive for coming to Jackson County was to take possession of a bounty he had received on the basis of his Revolutionary service.

He brought with him his five sons — George, John, Alexander, William, and Samuel Robinson. Also in the party were his nephews, James Robinson and James Logan.

Families not related to the Robinsons came in this party. The Robinsons and several of these other settlers contributed much to the development of Jackson County.

Compliments of -

## The Brand Shoe Store

Newport, Arkansas



## ● JACKSON COUNTY, ARKANSAS ●

### COUNTY SEATS

From 1830 to 1832, the courts in Jackson County met at the home of Thomas Wideman, at what is now called Erwin Switch. In 1832 the seat of justice was moved to Litchfield, where a rude courthouse and jail were built. In 1839 the town of Elizabeth became the county seat, public buildings being constructed on lots donated for that purpose by Noadiah Marsh, founder of the town. Due to damaging floods, the county seat was moved in 1852 to Augusta. Plans were made to build a courthouse, but were dropped, and, in 1854 the county seat was moved to Jacksonport. A frame building served as county offices for several years. Rented quarters served the courts in Jacksonport until 1872, when the courthouse now standing there was built and occupied. In 1892 Newport became the county seat.

### SETTLEMENT BEFORE 1830

Early settlers of Taylor's Bay Township, as shown on the 1829 Sheriff's Inventory of Independence County, included: Jacob, Michael, Joseph, and Charles Hagerton, brothers, who were part of the "Hackerton" settlement in this area about 1820; John Teague and Joseph Trimble, whose wives were Hagertons; Thomas Wideman, who had settled at what is now called Erwin in 1824, and his son, Jonathan Wideman; James Garrell (or Jirrell); Rowland Tidwell, who had come with his father, Peter Tidwell, to this area in 1821; Samuel, Redding and Holloway Stokes; Nicholas, Isaac and Martin Copeland, who went to Texas in the mid-1830's; Joseph Bridgman; John Purth; Dudley, William D., and Silas Glass; Isaac and Jacob Flanery; Roland "Rolla" Gray and sons, Daniel, Jesse, and Isaac, who settled around 1820 at Augusta; John James; Peggy Jones; Aaron Whitney; William Melton; Thomas Underwood; James McGee; James Burns; Jane Adams; and, Simeon Kenyon.

The Jackson County Court in 1830 divided the County into three townships. The northern part of Taylor's Bay Township was made into Village Creek Township, and all of Jackson County west of White River was made into Red River Township. Household-ers of Village Creek Township in 1830 (per federal census of that year) were: Thomas Wideman, Bird Condrey, William Miller, Samuel Stokes, Nicholas Copeland, John Flanery, Charles Hagerton, Martin Copeland, William Carr, Alfred W. G. Davis, Peggy Jones, Martin Bridgman, John James, Rowland Tidwell, Joseph Bridgman, Jane Whitney, Dexter Cornwell, Daniel Robbins, Thomas Underwood, James Burns, Simeon Kenyon, Jane Adams, William Hicks, and Jacob Flanery. Household-ers of Taylor's Bay Township in that year were: Holloway Stokes, John Teague, Redding Stokes, Isaac Flanery, Dudley Glass, Elijah Bartley, Joseph Hagerton, Silas Glass, Jacob Hagerton, Michael Hagerton, Joseph Trimble, John Gray, Rolla Gray, Isaac Gray, Jesse Gray, William Nicholson, James Woods, and Daniel Gray. Household-ers in Red River Township were: John Minyard, James Bennett, John K. Young, William Campbell, William Hammonds, William Ross, James Garrell (or Jirrell), and James Briscoe.

### JACKSON COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION (Continued)

Judson N. Hout

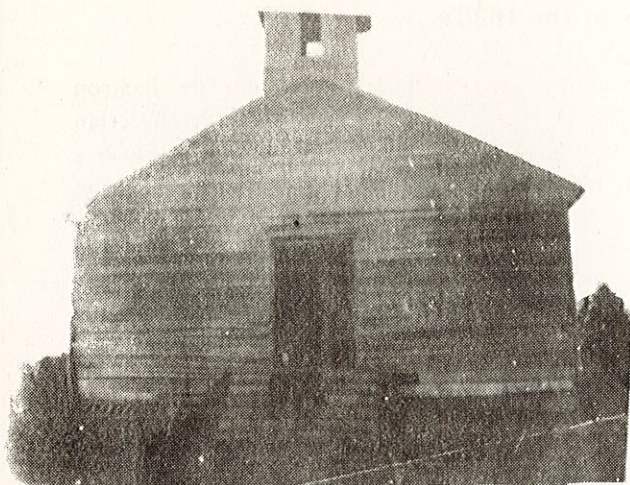
Fred M. Pickens, Jr.

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PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
JACKSONPORT

First permanent church in Jackson County,  
established 1848, built shortly afterwards.



BALLEW'S CHAPEL  
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Thomas Todd Tunstall operated steamboats for many years on the White River, bought land below the mouth of Black River and promoted the town of Jacksonport.

Born in 1790 in Virginia, he grew up in Shelby Co., Ky., and served in Simrall's Calvary Regt. of the Kentucky Light Dragoons in the War of 1812. He later became active in steamboating and was pilot of the Waverley on its first trip up White River in 1831. Among his own boats were the William Purson and the Harp. He owned extensive property in Independence and Jackson counties, raised thoroughbred race horses, and built one of the earliest race tracks, on his land where the military road crossed Doty Creek. He farmed in the latter years of his life and divided his time between his home in Jacksonport and a country home at Paraquet Bluff.



After he bought the land around Abraham Ruddell's Mill and platted Jacksonport, the first building Tunstall constructed was a large, two-story hotel. This provided a place for steamboat men and new families to stay, and the Tunstall Hotel later became political headquarters in the town.

He died November 7, 1862, and is buried at Pleasant Hill Cemetery.

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## ● JACKSON COUNTY ARKANSAS ●

### Settlement in the 1830's

In the fall of 1831, the Robinson Party brought a large number of settlers to Jackson County, including Dr. James P. Montgomery (physician), Dr. Daniel L. Gray (Presbyterian minister), Col. Henry Harvey Means, and Charles M. Murphy, in addition to the Robinsons and Logans. Alvin McDonald may have come with this group; at any rate, he was in Jackson County in the mid-1830's. His father, Robert McDonald, settled in Pike County around this time. Alvin McDonald settled near Weldon. Robert Crump, who settled at the mouth of Village Creek, also may have come with the Robinsons.

In 1833 a party from Spartanburg, S. C., led by Maj. Alexander Roddy, came to Jackson County. It included Alexander Roddy's sons, Elias B. and John Roddy, and an orphaned grandson, Thomas Booker Roddy. The Roddys settled northeast of Augusta. Shortly afterwards, Joel Hill came from Alabama and settled in the same vicinity.

In 1836 a part of Oil Trough was taken from Independence County and attached to Jackson. John Smith and his sons, David Douglas and William Smith, had settled in this area about 1818. William Smith and wife Anne (nee Yocum) had a number of children. Their daughters married these early settlers of the Oil Trough area: Grief Green Connally, George Sink, and George Eder. In this area, around surrounded hill, the Saffolds and Smalleys settled at an early date. Henry Fortenberry was another settler in this area. Charles Pistole lived in this area for some time.

The Heffingtons came in the 1830's and settled in what is now Barren Township, near the town of Demark. Stich Tucker settler at an early date near Grand Glaize.

Noadiah Marsh and wife, Elizabeth (nee Craig), established a landing, which later developed into a town, on White River, called Elizabeth, in the 1830's. William H. Morris was an early settler there. In this same area were Samuel Garner, Morris' father-in-law, and Nathan Haggard.

Elijah Wilkerson settled near Litchfield. James Litchfield and John C. Saylor were also early settlers there. At the site of Newport, Rowland Tidwell established a ferry and landing. He sold it in 1835 to Jesse B. Daugherty, whose widow, Sarah Daugherty, tried to develop it into a town about 1840.

In 1833 Thomas T. Tunstall bought a mill at Jacksonport. His son, William W. Tunstall, platted the town of Jacksonport around 1840 and developed the town. John J. Waddill settled near Newport in the mid-1830's. Asa M. and Elijah Carpenter settled in the same area about 1835. George W. Cromwell settled on Village Creek in the early 1830's.

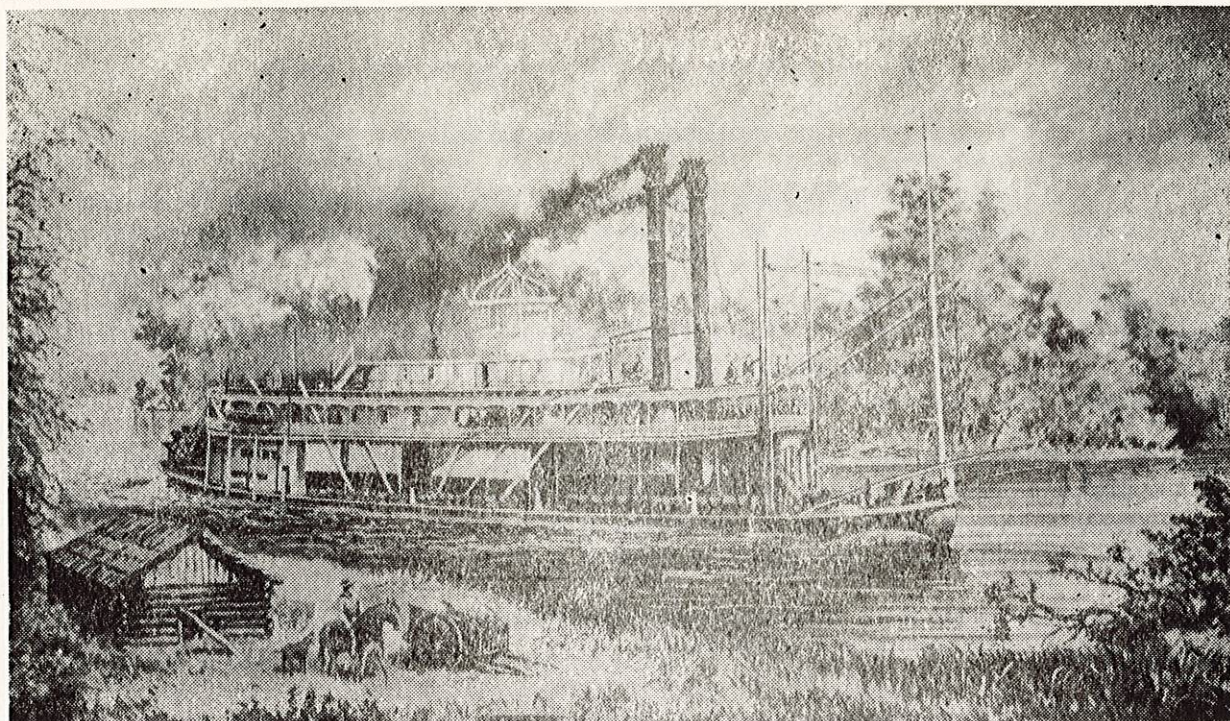
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The "JOSIE HARRY"

## JACKSONPORT

For about thirty-five years between 1850 and 1885, Jacksonport was the leading town in Jackson County and, indeed, a Queen of the River, as the old ports were called, in the center of the White and Black river trade. The steamboat men were the magnates of the day.

The big boats from all over the Mississippi system brought cargoes to be transferred to smaller upriver craft or ox-drawn wagons. Outgoing cargoes of cotton, timber, game and livestock were often loaded on the boats until the guardrail was under water. Dressed deer and bear meat topped the local freight and wild turkeys hung from the upper deck.

Thomas Todd Tunstall bought the land and platted the original town of Jacksonport in the 1830s. Social life centered around the steamboats. The arrival of a big boat was the occasion for feasting and dancing on board. Wedding trips, business trips and the United States mail left via the river for all parts of the South.

During the Civil War, Jacksonport was occupied continuously by Confederate or Union armies. It was designated as the place for Confederate commands north of the Arkansas River to rendezvous for surrender at the close of the war.

Refusing the right-of-way for the Cairo and Fulton Railroad in 1872, the town was by-passed and eventually lost its importance to Newport, the county seat being moved in 1892. But Jacksonport endowed the county with a heritage that is felt to this day. The outgoing, knowledgeable, optimistic quality of Jackson County people stems from that golden era of the old steamboat town with its hospitality and Joie de vivre!

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**MERCHANTS AND PLANTERS BANK**  
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## ● JACKSON COUNTY ARKANSAS ●

### Settlement in the 1840's

During the 1840's a large number of people settled in Jackson County. Those settling in the area now in Woodruff County included: Elisha Q. Hammond, from South Carolina; William Winfrey, from Alabama; Thomas H. Penn, from Tennessee; Rev. John M. Erwin, Presbyterian minister from North Carolina, who settled in 1840 at Augusta; Thomas Hough, who founded Augusta in 1848; George J. Hatch, who settled at Augusta; John M. Anthony, from Georgia; Elijah Shettlesworth, from Alabama; David Spradlin, from Georgia; John H. Pursell, from South Carolina; Henry Haralson, from Mississippi; Absolam Arnold, from Tennessee; John Beard, from North Carolina; and, Joshua Nance, from Georgia.

Among those settling around Cache River, in the area of Cache and Richwoods Townships were: James Johnston, from Tennessee, at Richwoods; Whitton Turner, from Tennessee; Henry H. Durham, from Tennessee; William P. Stegall, from Tennessee; Josiah McCall, from North Carolina, at Remmel; Thomas McCartney, from Alabama, at Blackville; Thomas Boen, from Tennessee, at Blackville; Simms Matheny, from Alabama; Robert Reese, from Alabama; and, Allen Lamkins, from Tennessee.

Those settling in what is now Breckenridge Township were: Micajah B. McCoy, from Mississippi, at Tupelo; Lancaster Ragsdale, from Tennessee; Thomas Naremore, from Missouri; David May, from Missouri; William Bleakley, from Tennessee; James and Robert Breckenridge, from Missouri; Thompson Harl, brother-in-law of Alvin McDonald, from Tennessee; Rutherford Jones, from Missouri; Archibald Brazeale, from Tennessee; and, Samuel Sherrell, from Tennessee.

Settling in the area around Newport were the Pennywitts and Eskews. New settlers near Grubbs were Elbridge Loftin and James Sullins. Other settlers in this general area were: Elijah Blansett, from Illinois; William Burkett; John Williams and son, Nathaniel C. Williams, from Georgia; John Safford; Jobe and Andrew J. Greenhaw; the Pistoles; John Leech, from Indiana; Garlin and Green Silvey; and, Abraham McMinn, from Mississippi.

Settlers at Jacksonport were: George W. Caldwell, whose wife was a daughter of Thomas T. Tunstall; Lewis Judson, from Connecticut; Andrew J. and William Lankford, from Virginia; Rush Hudson, from South Carolina; Alexander Pool and his brother-in-law, Parmenas H. Redman, from Illinois; Publius S. Wisdom; John Diamond; and, John Graham Witherspoon. Benjamin Roberts, from Tennessee, settled in the northern part of Jefferson Township, as did Henry Billings (from Tennessee), Isaiah Hamilton (from Alabama), Benjamin Steen (from South Carolina), and John C. Pugh (from Alabama).

Settlers in the Barren-Glaize area were: Thomas Gifford, from Kentucky; James Gourd, from Kentucky; George Williamson, from Tennessee; and, Major Moore.

Settlers in the northern part of the County, now in Bird and Glass Townships, were: Henry Miller; Robert and William Harvey, from Tennessee; Christopher W. Board, from Kentucky; David and Samuel Hollingshead, from South Carolina; Thomas Arnold, from Tennessee; Elias Ruffner, from Tennessee; and, John Vandiever, from Kentucky.

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## SAM ANTHONY, THE PAUL REVERE OF JACKSON COUNTY

No poet has ever eulogized the midnight ride of Samuel Anthony on the twenty-sixth of June, eighteen hundred and sixty two, as he galloped through Mayberry Bottoms down the Island Road — "now soft on the sand, now loud on the ridge, is heard the tramp of his steed as he rides."

But just as that earlier ride of Paul Revere spread the alarm to every Middlesex village and farm, so this night ride drove the enemy from OUR land when the embattled farmers took their stand and completely demolished a wagon train sent to rob the "Ranch House" of its storage of grain.

Gen. Sam. Curtis' Federal Army cut a swath of destruction through eastern Arkansas in June, 1862, that has been compared to Sherman's march through Georgia. Curtis' advance division commanded by Gen. Frederick Steele was camped between old Litchfield and Erwin's Station in Jackson County. Plans for a raid upon the Confederate grain supply at the Ranch Place, now the Keel farm on the Island, were discovered by local residents. Hooker Confederate Company of Jackson County troops and two Texas companies of dismounted cavalry were stationed at Grand Glaize.

Samuel Anthony who lived southwest of the Laird farm left home after the late June twilight, rode along back trails to the river, crossed the ferry, and reached Grand Glaize soon after midnight. Hooker's Company alerted every able-bodied man and boy from the countryside, marched up the west bank of White River, and crossed on small boats, some swimming. Chester Tucker, then a lad of sixteen, said he and other boys tied dry limbs together with grape vines, placed their guns and powder on the make-shift rafts which they pushed ahead of them as they swam.

Buck Pond, lined with cane and Buckweeds, between the Island Road and the river bank provided an excellent spot for attack on the wagon train.

The morning of June 27th, the large Union train, escorted by units from the 3rd Iowa and 9th Illinois cavalry regiments had passed Buck Pond before Confederates were assembled there. After loading the wagons with grain and a supply of arms and ammunition at the Ranch Place, they started on their return march.

Jackson County men and the Texans, lying on their stomachs in the steaming mud bank of the pond on that hot June day, waited impatiently for the pistol shot that would signal the attack. When the lumbering wagons were halfway past, "all hell broke loose." The horses reared, overturning and twisting the wagons in a tangled mess; drivers and soldiers took to the woods in a complete rout. But after a three hour lull a large Union force appeared. Col. Brackett and Col. Cyrus Bussey returned with the Iowa and Illinois regiments; Gen. Benton advanced with the 8th Indiana Infantry and a battery.

The morning of June 27th, the large their impregnable position. The Yankees were unable to deploy troops for a charge on the narrow road, and after a terrible half hour of slaughter, retreated to the Stewart cornfield and then returned to headquarters. All 47 wagons were captured by the Southerners.

Steele had so many wounded men, they were laid in rows in the "Round Top House" and the Homes of local doctors. Curtis' Army left a few days later and Jackson County was free from Federal troops for the next seventeen months.

This Page Sponsored By

**KEEL FARMS**

John Keel

Franklin Keel





John William Stayton (1835-1896), a native of Phillips county moved from Helena to Jacksonport in 1866. He had practiced law at Helena; but at Jacksonport he entered the mercantile business. He was elected mayor of Jacksonport in 1868. In 1874 he re-entered the legal profession, practicing at Jacksonport until 1885, when he moved to Newport where he practiced until his death in 1896.

In 1874 Stayton was elected county judge, serving 4 years. In 1884 he was elected to the state senate from the district which then included Jackson County. In 1885 he was selected by his colleagues to serve as president pro tem of the senate. In this capacity he served as governor of Arkansas later that year while Governor Simon P. Hughes was absent from the state. Stayton is the only representative from Jackson County on the list of governors of the state.

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**Minton Implement Company, Inc.**

JA 3-5814

Highway 67 North

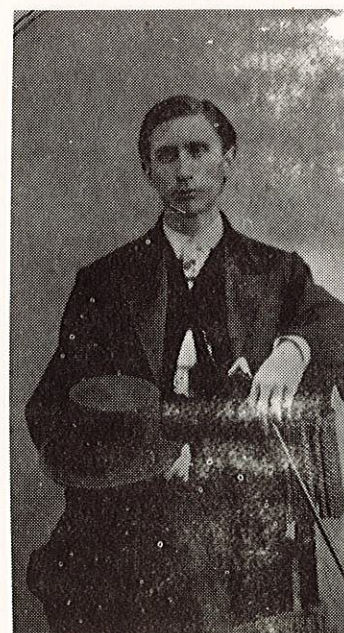
Lucian Cotesworth Gause (1838-1880), born in North Carolina but reared in Tennessee, studied at the University of Virginia and Cumberland University (Tennessee). He came to Jacksonport in 1859, entering the practice of law. In 1861 he entered Confederate service as lieutenant of the Jackson Guards, Company G, First Arkansas Infantry, becoming colonel of a regiment (32nd Arkansas Infantry) in 1862.

After the War Gause returned to Jacksonport and resumed the practice of law. In 1866 he was elected to the state legislature and in 1872 to the United States House of Representatives; however, he was not seated in the House the following year; his opponent (Asa Hodges) being seated. In 1874 he was again elected to the House and served two terms (1875-1879).

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Newport, Arkansas





## WELDON

Practically all of the early settlements in Jackson County were on the sand ridge along the edge of White River bottoms, extending from Augusta to Jacksonport, a distance of over thirty miles. This was an early trail for travel and later known as "The Old Wire Road", as the first telegraph wire in the county was extended here.

Some of the early settlers in the vicinity of Weldon were Alvin McDonald, Col. Matthew Davis, and Dr. Pickett, who settled around what is now known as Pickett Lake; all of whom have many descendants living here today.

After the War Between the States, the first person to settle in this town was Mr. W. H. Wise (Billy Wise), the father of the late R. J. Wise of Newport. Mr. Wise found a sand hill about a mile east of the old Wire Road, and it was here the town site was surveyed and the streets named for the Presidents of the United States. At the beginning, the town was given the name of Linden. But another place by that name was discovered in the state, so the name was changed to Weldon.

The town began to grow rapidly, as it was supported by rich timber lands and a good farming area. The Kimbroughs, Deans, Torians, Moores, Gilliams, Sweats and McCauleys were some of the people who decided to move in or near here to start a new life for their families.

The B and B (Brinkley and Batesville) Railroad, later called the Rock Island, was built in 1886 from Brinkley to Jacksonport. It was never extended to Batesville, and Jacksonport became the terminal at that end of the line. It gave daily passenger service and local freight. The passenger train was called "Ole Jude" by all who traveled on it. The coming of the automobile and trucks, and better roads caused business to decline to such an extent that the railroad was abandoned in 1941.

The Methodist church was organized in 1889, and the building was used as a school during the week and a church on Sunday until 1895, when the first school house was built. The teacher was a Mr. Oliver, who was also the preacher. Dave Kimbrough and Billy Wise donated the land on which to build the church. Before that time, the people worshipped at White Church and Sand Hill near Auvergne.

At one time Weldon could boast of a hotel, a drugstore, Millinery shop, sawmills, stave mills, a brick kiln that was built and operated by Mr. B. R. McDearmon for several years, and of course, the church and school. There are now two general merchandise stores, one gin operated by McDonald Brothers, the Methodist Church, one filling station, and a cattle auction barn owned by White River Valley Feeder Calf Association. This association was organized in 1955 and up to date has sold \$3,000,000 worth of cattle.

Descendants of Alvin McDonald have operated the gin at Weldon since the business was formed as McDonald Brothers in 1873. Alvin McDonald had four sons, Lab, Robert D, John and Tobe. They and their families have taken a progressive and prominent part in the development of farming in the southern part of the county. They still own, and have added to, the original land homesteaded in the 1830's.

Sponsored by

**McDonald Brothers**

1873 - 1965

Weldon, Arkansas



**OTASCO**

308 Front St.

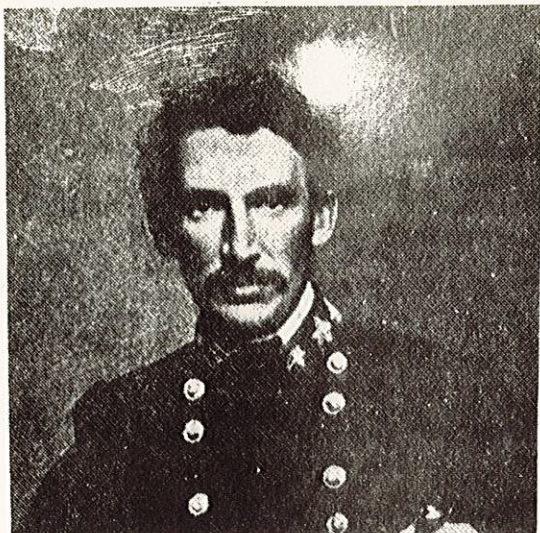
Newport, Ark.

**WRIGHT'S**

"Hardware for Hard Wear"

408 Front St.

Newport, Ark.

**SURRENDER OF CONFEDERATE ARMY AT JACKSONPORT**

BRIG. GEN. JEFF THOMPSON  
C. S. A.

Almost 6,000 troops north of the Arkansas River surrendered and received paroles at Jacksonport Arkansas, June 5, 1865.

Brig. General Jeff Thompson, "Swamp Fox of the Confederacy," signed an agreement with Lt. Colonel C. W. Davis on behalf of Gen. Dodge and Gen. Pope of the Military Division of the Missouri. He sent Gen. Order No. 8 to all officers north of the Arkansas River advising them to surrender under the Grant-Lee terms.

Thompson arrived at Jacksonport with Col. Davis June 4th, and visited the different commands already encamped in the woods and fields near the town. The next day they assembled at the steamboat landing accompanied by the townspeople and many friends and relatives from around the county.

Tall, sinewy, weatherbeaten, "dressed in white, with sword belts and white gloves," Thompson stood on the cabin deck of the steamboat and gave a farewell address. After the long business of writing the paroles was finished, he gave his horse and saddle to the hotel proprietor, saying it was all he had to pay the bill for himself and his staff.

Col. Davis made the following report on the condition of the Confederate troops surrendered to him June 5th:

No transportation except 300 to 400 dugout canoes.

No public animals.

No other property of any kind except \$4,821 in Confederate money for which he gave a receipt.

Less than 500 arms.

No food.

The Union Army issued 28,000 rations of sugar, salt, coffee, vinegar, and hard bread. The first reaction to the end of the long hard years was a stunned relief. Col. Davis wrote that there seemed to be a holiday spirit. Everybody shook hands with everybody else; some shouted, some cried; some talked of planning parties for the next week.

No one could quite believe the war was over; none were prepared for the equally hard years of Reconstruction that were soon to follow. Col. Hans Mattson and the 3rd Minnesota Regiment maintained the Federal garrison at Jacksonport for several months.

**BUDDY'S DAIRIETTE**

V. H. Brooks

Tuckerman, Ark.

**JARVIS BROTHERS**

Newport, Ark.



## REMMEL

The settlement of Rummel was started before the Civil War. John W. McCartney, Sr. and Cane McCall (who wore earrings) were among the immigrants coming from Alabama and Georgia to this part of the country looking for a better life for their families. They arrived in Jackson County to what is now known as the Rummel community prior to the civil war. They built houses from logs hewn by hand, and Mrs. McCall built a large two-story house which was the showplace of that time.

These people prospered because of the fine timber and rich soil. They planted cotton, Indian corn and hay for their livestock.

Not all was pleasant in these surroundings as they were troubled with the jayhawkers during the war. John W. was captured at one time and forced to go with them for several miles. Finally, he contacted a freed slave and told him if he would have his mule at a certain tree at 12 o'clock that night he would give him a twenty dollar gold piece. At the appointed hour the negro was there with the mule. John W. gave him the gold and made his escape. After this, for sometime, he had to hide out in the woods in the day time and go home at night. His wife used a white sheet to signal when the coast was clear of the enemy and it was safe to come home.

John McCartney, Sr. built the first gin in this area. The press was pulled by a team of oxen; The screw was made of wood and could be heard for a long distance if they did not keep it well lubricated with axle grease.

The McCartney family continued to work for a better community, helping to build the school, the church and roads. Joe and John Jr., sons of the above John W. Sr., built a store and later acquired the first Postoffice through the help of H. L. Rummel, thus giving the community its name. This was in the early nineties.

Decendants of this family own land operate businesses in Jackson County today; among these are Frank and Charles McCartney of Rummel, Monroe and Rhew of Newport; Luther and Alton of Newport, and Dee H. McCartney of Shoffner.

W. A. McCartney, father of Frank and Charles and Jewel M. Heffington, established a mercantile and gin business at Rummel. He was one of the earliest rice producers in the county, also growing cotton and soybeans. Later they went into the minnow producing business, which is now one of the large farms of this kind in the state.

Judge McCartney was always active in the county and state affairs, served as county judge for four years. He was always giving his time and service to the community, the church and to others.

Among the earliest families in the Rummel community were the Marks, Clarks, Bufords, Shalls, Hueys, Koettels, Bowman, Bensons, Lewises, Cooks, and Nance family.

## McCartney Mercantile & Gin Company and McCartney Minnow Farm

Frank McCartney

Charles McCartney



## R. D. Wilmans and Sons, Inc.

The patriarch of the Wilmans family, J. E. Wilmans, arrived in Jackson County in 1859, from Kentucky. Stopping first in Jacksonport, he soon settled his family at Elgin on the Black River, where he established a mercantile business, and in partnership with Captain James Smith, owned a steamboat.

After the Civil War, with the help of his four sons, C. H. Wilmans, J. S. Wilmans, E. B. Wilmans and R. D. Wilmans, Mr. Wilmans bought more land and the business was incorporated under the name of Wilmans Land Company.

With the general exodus from Jacksonport, the Wilmans brothers moved their business from Elgin to Newport, where, in 1896, they re-established their mercantile business. In 1903, headquarters of the business was moved to Diaz, chosen for its accessibility to the two railroads, the White River Line and the main line of the Missouri Pacific. This facilitated the shipping of cotton, cattle, and other products. A store and gin were built and have been in continuous operation since that time.

In 1924, Robert Dorsey Wilmans, Sr. bought out his brothers' interest in the business and formed Wilmans Mercantile Co. in partnership with his two sons, J. E. Wilmans and R. D. Wilmans, Jr. General farming and commercial cattle raising were both practiced. In 1948, the business was re-organized and incorporated as R. D. Wilmans and Sons.

Changing with the times, the same land is now farmed by twenty tenants instead of one hundred before mechanization. Records show a steady growth, other than in 1899, when cotton sold at 3c per pound. In 1950, the Wilmans went into the Registered Cattle business and concentrated on Black Angus beef cattle. They held three private production auction sales and were advertised in National cattlemen's magazines.

When the White River Valley Feeder Calf Association was formed in 1955, James E. Wilmans was elected charter president and served for ten years, retiring this year.

R. D. Wilmans, Sr. was well known in Arkansas for his progressive ideas and interest in the development of better farming methods. He was always willing to take part in worthwhile projects to advance his community and Jackson County as a whole. He died April 14th, 1958. His sons, R. D. Wilmans, Jr. and J. E. Wilmans continue to operate the gin, the farms, and cattle ranches at "7-11" and Sand Hill. It has always been the policy of the Wilmans to practice good husbandry and to serve the public with honor.



## A CENTURY AGO



A group of stores in Jacksonport in the 1860's

Compliments of

**GULLIC MEN'S WEAR**

Newport

**HALL AND MONDAY  
SHOE STORE**

## EXPLANATION OF PICTURES ON PAGE 21

The picture at top of opposite page shows the office of THE STATESMAN, a Republican newspaper, which began publication in Jacksonport in 1869 during the Carpet-bag Regime. It was published by J. W. Siler, who operated it one year. In 1870 he was appointed U. S. Consul to Santa Cruz, Mexico, and sold the paper to John P. Fagin and General M. McCannany. They changed its name to the ARKANSAS STATESMAN, and later to the DISPATCH. It was suspended in 1880.

Below, on the opposite page, is a picture of all the pupils who attended the first public school in Jacksonport. Public schools were started in the county in the 1870's, after the untiring efforts of Franklin Doswell, a brilliant and much-beloved attorney of Jacksonport.

From left to right, front row: Annie Green, Catchie Bach, Fanny Wolf, Fanny McCauley (Johnson), Annie Mull, Lizzie Duffer (Ballew), Kate Joyce (Mauck), Fannie Anderson (Foushee), Rowena Wolf (Anderson), Florence Arnold (Avery), unidentified.

Second row: Lucy Watson (Gregg), Mary Joyce, Neva Cook (Butler), Mary Davis (Davis), Inez Mull, Carrie Monroe, Margretta Bach (Hafner), unidentified, Bertha Gause (Woodward), Lizzie Matthews (Stevens), and Dot Robinson (Gunter).

Third row: Unidentified, Mart Mull, next two unidentified, Eddie Nixon, unidentified, Whit Cook, Ozzie Duffer, Tom Wolf, Charlie Walker, Willie Bordwell, and Houston Wilson.

Fourth row: Unidentified, Minnie Simpson (Anschutz), Kate Watson (Bennett), Artie Pritchard (Stewart), Ella Doswell (Wilms), Lucy Taylor (Irby), Ethel Doswell (Taylor), and Mayme Loftin.

Fifth row: Ralph Kellogg, Ike Stephens, John Jowers, Mr. Miller the teacher, Charlie Slinger and William Verdell.

Compliments of

**WESTERN AUTO STORE**

Tuckerman

**PUNCH'S RESTAURANT**

Highway 67 N.

Newport





Office of the Arkansas Statesman at Jacksonport

**DELTA L. P. GAS COMPANY**  
Tuckerman, Arkansas

**JACKSONPORT SCHOOLMATES OF 1882**



**WHITE ABSTRACT AND REALTY COMPANY**  
520 3rd Third  
Newport



## ROBERT GLEN SHAVER

Among the more distinguished residents of Jacksonport may be listed the name of Robert Glen Shaver, sometime colonel of the famous "Bloody Seventh," CSA, acting brigade commander, Grand Dragon of the Ku Klux Klan in the "Tragic Era," one of the State's leading attorneys, and, in later years sheriff of Howard County, general of Arkansas Militia, and commander of the United Confederate Veterans. General Shaver lived in Jacksonport during the turbulent years 1865-1868.

R. G. Shaver was born in east Tennessee in 1831. After completing his literary education at Emory and Henry College, he moved to Batesville, Arkansas. There he read law and was admitted to the Bar. June 10th, 1856, he was married, at Batesville, to Miss Adelaide Ringgold, daughter of Col. John Ringgold, one of the prominent citizens of the state. He and Mrs. Shaver made their home in the Strawberry River Valley until the beginning of the Civil War. In the spring of 1861, he organized a regiment of infantry for the Confederacy.

Besides his military service he is worthy of recognition for being instrumental in freeing Arkansas from the iniquitous carpet-bag rule that had been forced upon a defeated - - or rather overpowered - - and defenceless people by a vengeful and radical Congress.

Upon his return from the war, General Shaver settled in Jackson County, where he owned a farm, and began the practice of law in Jacksonport. But the radical wing of the Republican party gained control of Congress and began a campaign to humiliate and beggar the stricken South.

All Confederate veterans were disfranchised and so were those known to have given aid to the Southern Cause - - even a father known to have nursed a wounded son.

Unionists, those living in the state before and during the War, and Northern people who moved to Arkansas in the post-war period, were honorable men and tried to save the state from bankruptcy. Most of the Negroes took no part in politics, but the "Carpetbaggers", opportunists and thieves tagging after the Union Army, gained control of the political machinery of the state. They voted taxes beyond the ability of the people to pay, and stood ready to buy in all property confiscated for the taxes they had levied. They enforced their decrees and intimidated the public by gangs miscalled "Militia."

It was America's darkest hour. Something had to be done. Something was done! The Ku Klux Klan was organized. Nathan Bedford Forrest became the Imperial Wizard, head of the "Invisible Empire" that drove out the carpetbaggers and eventually saved the South from bankruptcy. General Shaver was the head of the Klan in Arkansas, its "Grand Dragon". He was also a member of the Supreme Council, and most of the ritual and Latin terms used by the Klan are due to his scholarship.

How he battled the carpet baggers, how he was finally betrayed to them, and had to flee to British Honduras to escape arrest by the "militia," which arrest would have been his death warrant, reads like a romance, and an interesting volume could be written on it.

General Shaver spent four years in exile, returning after the final overthrow of the Carpetbag regime, and the election of his friend Elisha Baxter to the office of Governor. He was soon appointed Sheriff of the newly created county of Howard, and spent the rest of a long active life in western Arkansas. He served in after years as a general of Arkansas militia, and a commander of United Confederate Veterans - - - the greatest honor his old comrades could bestow. Shaver died in Mena, Arkansas, in 1915, in the 84th year of his life, honored by all.

Jacksonport and Jackson County can well be proud that General Robert Glen Shaver was once one of our citizens.

by Lawton McClard, Swifton, Arkansas



Compliments of  
**BANK OF TUCKERMAN  
 SWIFTON WINDOW**  
 Swifton, Arkansas

Compliments of  
**BUCK HURLEY  
 SWIFTON GIN, INC.**  
 Swifton, Arkansas

## SWIFTON

As early as 1861 there was a settlement where Swifton stands and religious services were conducted here according to a record of one of the local churches. It was not called Swifton until the Iron Mountain Railway came through in 1872 and began purchasing wood for its locomotives from a farm family named Swift.

Many of the settlers came prior to that time including J. M. Glass who came to Jackson County in 1850 as a school teacher. In 1857 he moved on to the township which later was named for him. He was elected to the offices of justice of the peace, county surveyor, and school director.

Prominent among the ranks of those who fought for the Confederacy were many of the early settlers. J. W. Clark, who came in 1860, enlisted early with an Arkansas regiment and soon rose to the rank of Colonel. Mr. Glass participated in the Battle of Prairie Grove and other skirmishes. He was made First Lieutenant and then Adjutant. G. W. Dudley enlisted in 1861 and engaged in many major battles including Mannassas and Shiloh. He was twice severely wounded. In 1867 he moved to Glass Township. R. E. Jones, who settled in this township in 1865, served three years and participated in the battles of Helena, Pea Ridge and others. William R. Harvey, who came to the county in 1849, served from 1862 until close of war. He was in many battles. After the war he moved to Glass Township. He built one of the first roads from the old St. Louis trail to his home.

In the establishment and growth of Swifton some of the "firsts" were: the postoffice and Alexander J. Jones, who was postmaster; the first school, a private one called the Moon School, located north of town near the county line; doctors, J. H. Rutland, Bud Tunstall, T. W. Toler, who came as a child with his father in 1869; N. D. Moon and A. J. Mills, 1883. Among the large landowners were the Moons, Harveys, Dudleys, and C. C. Nicholson who was a native son, born in 1863. Joseph G. Smith was active in maintenance of the railroad, being a foreman of an extra gang. Most all of these mentioned have descendants still living in Swifton.

In the 1880's Swifton contained a postoffice, a steam-grist mill and cotton gin, two general stores, one dry goods and grocery store, two groceries, two hotels, a school house, mechanics shops, etc. and a population of 150. The 1960 census gives Swifton's population as 601. In the town proper there are four churches and five in the outlying district. They are Assembly of God, Baptist, Church of Christ, and Methodist. There is a bank, cotton gin, lumber yard and construction company, groceries, picture show, a fine school system, Volunteer Fire Department, etc.

## GEORGE KELL MOTORS, INC.

Pontiac - Oldsmobile - Cadillac - GMC Trucks  
 3rd & Beech Streets, Newport "We Appreciate Your Business"



## TUCKERMAN

In 1872 the St. Louis, Iron Mountain and Southern Railroad came through Jackson County. One of the stations established was Tuckerman, which supposedly was named for a man connected with the railroad.

D. C. and F. R. Dowell, sons of Henry Dowell, who left Kentucky and settled near Elgin in 1850, saw the possibilities in the site of the Tuckerman station and built the first store in Tuckerman. The second building in Tuckerman was the residence of Frank Harrison. His daughter, Julia Harrison (later Armstrong), was the first white child to live in Tuckerman, coming from Elgin at the age of three months. The first child born in Tuckerman was a Negro, Joe Lucas (a girl). The first white child born in the town was Foster B. Dowell, a son of D. C. Dowell.

Dr. Richardson and Alex Lockard were other early pioneers of the town. Lockard operated a store in Tuckerman. A log blacksmith shop was erected in the '70's, followed by a number of other buildings: Bloom's Store, the Masonic Lodge, T. D. Lawrence's Store, the L. D. Smith residence.

As the town progressed, the children of Stephen J. Graham, who had settled south of Tuckerman in 1850, moved into the town and built a store. As the town expanded, the Graham Brothers enterprises also expanded.

Among the other pioneers who settled in the area of Tuckerman were the following: John Darden, Wash Parrott, W. S. Armstrong, George Bandy, T. E. Jones, Ed Maxey, Henry Hill, John Mathis, Henry Allen, Sam Harvey, Wiseman Tins, Cal Biggers, Roe Anderson, the Gardners, the Terrells, the Deatons, the Bowens, the McNutts, the Conditts, J. Y. Harrison, Henry H. Penix, the Yelvertons, the Slaydens, the Palmers, the Langstons, Dr. Crawford West, Dr. Boyce, the Vandivers, the Farmers, George Washington Miller, the Choates, Rev. Evans (built the first Methodist Church in 1888), Bob Harvey, the Sees, Bob Graham, W. H. Parrott.

Tuckerman was incorporated Nov. 9, 1891.

Compliments of

### Bank of Tuckerman

Since 1902

### Bank of Tuckerman Swifton Window

Since 1944





Mule Team with Wagon Load of Cotton Bales  
Graham Brothers Gin

## GRAHAM BROTHERS COMPANY

Organized 1902, Henry Graham, President

The Eight Original Graham Brothers

Partnership Organized 1880

Merchants - Ginners - Planters

Tuckerman

Since 1880



## **Revolutionary Soldiers who Settled in Jackson County**

1. John Smith: served from North Carolina; settled in Oil Trough area about 1818; died in 1839; buried at Surrounded Hill.
2. Thomas Wideman: served from Georgia; settled in Jackson County, at what is now called Erwin, in 1824; died in 1840; buried in Wideman Cemetery.
3. John Robinson: served from Pennsylvania; settled in Jackson County, near Litchfield, in 1831; died in 1834; buried near Litchfield.
4. Joel Hill: served from North Carolina; settled in Jackson County (now Woodruff), near Augusta, in 1834; died in 1842; buried in Roddy Cemetery (Woodruff County).
5. Charles Pistole: served from Virginia; settled in Surrounded Hill area in 1838; removed to Greenbriar area of Independence County; died in Independence County in 1839.

## **Freemasonry in Jackson County**

The history of Freemasonry in Jackson County closely paralleled the history of the county itself, strongly exerting a beneficial influence on the lives of its early pioneer citizens.

The first lodge was Pool Lodge No. 31, organized in Jacksonport in 1849, just twenty short years after the founding of the county. Pool Lodge took its name from W. A. Pool, first master of the Lodge. Other officers were H. Payne, senior warden; J. Robinson, junior warden; and F. M. Leach, secretary.

Charter members were: W. T. Robinson, J. G. Witherspoon, Andrew Jackson, W. G. Lewis, Jordan Hill, G. Sylva, John M. Leach, J. H. T. Webb, J. W. Jones, J. A. Robinson, J. M. Pursley, A. J. Dunn, William Major, T. E. Piper, L. Judson, and W. Steen.

This lodge dissolved in 1860 at the beginning of the Civil War, probably due to the leaving of most of its members for military service. After the war the lodge was reorganized as Jacksonport Lodge No. 191 on a charter issued November 7, 1866, with 35 charter member, many of them former members of Pool Lodge.

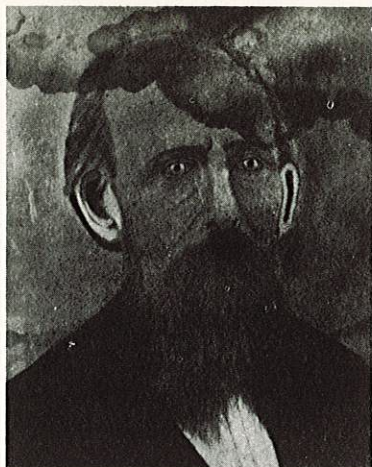
Another early lodge in the county was Fortitude Lodge No. 397, organized at Newport in 1882 with the following officers and members: W. H. Heard, worshipful master; W. L. Harris, senior warden; W. B. Chastain, junior warden; Henry P. Cleveland, Andrew Baschwitz, James Grubbs, James T. Henderson, G. W. Hurley, J. M. Jones, and J. E. Wilmans.

Jacksonport Lodge No. 191 consolidated with Fortitude Lodge No. 397 of Newport, in 1894 under the new name of Jackson Lodge No. 191, F. & A. M. and has operated since that date in Newport, Arkansas.

## **Jackson Lodge No. 191, F. and A.M.**

**Newport, Arkansas**





**Robert West**  
(1851-1909)

## WEST



**Sarah W. Hurley**  
1st Mayor of Diaz



**Dr. C. West**  
(1854-1913)

Robert West was born in Chester, S. C., in 1851, one of eleven children of Robert C. and Sarah (Willard) West. Sarah (Willard) West's mother, Mrs. Mary Hudson, had come to Jackson County with her second husband, Rush Hudson, in 1842, settling at Jacksonport, where Rush Hudson was a tailor and for some time sheriff of Jackson County.

Robert C. and Sarah West brought their family to Jackson County in 1866, at the urging of her brother-in-law, William R. Jones. Robert C. West died in Jackson County in 1871. Of their children, three sons lived in Jackson County: Robert West, James Iro West, and Dr. Crawford West. Dr. Crawford West practiced medicine in Jackson County until his death in 1913.

Robert West bought a tract of land near Diaz in 1876. He increased his landholdings to some 450 acres, at one time renting 800 additional acres, all of which he devoted to corn and cotton. Seeing the need for a cotton gin in his area, West built one at Diaz in 1891, the first gin at Diaz and one of the earliest in the County. This gin burned in 1894 and he built a second steam-operated gin on the site of the present Hurley Gin at Diaz, operating a store and gristmill in connection with the gin. Around 1900, he discontinued the use of his gin and it was torn down.

### The Town of Diaz

Diaz was settled in the early 1840's, when it was known as Highland. A land company, called the Highland Company, was established in order to obtain the removal of the county seat from Elizabeth to Highland. This was never accomplished.

Shiloh Church was established at an early date at Diaz. Shiloh Cemetery dates back to the 1840's. One of the earliest plots in this cemetery is the Hudson-Jones-West family plot. A Presbyterian Church was established in Diaz and operated until around 1936. The children of Robert West donated four lots in the town of Diaz for the building of a Presbyterian Church. It was destroyed in a tornado.

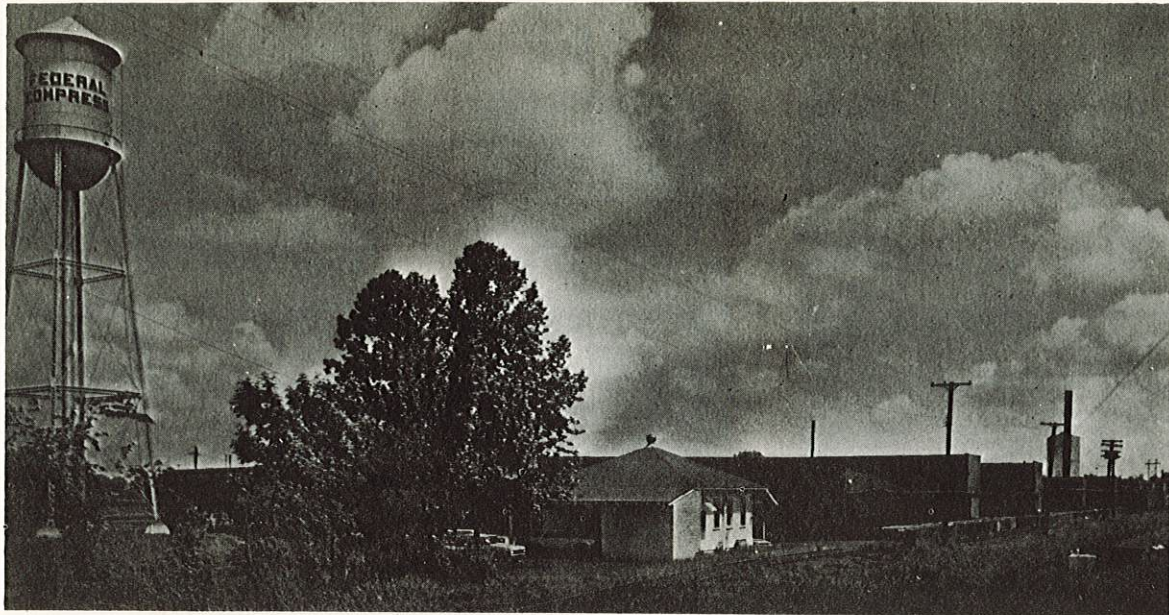
On November 5, 1956, the town of Diaz was incorporated. In February of 1957 Sarah W. Hurley, a daughter of Robert West, was elected as the first mayor of the city, serving until her death in 1963.

**Sponsored by**  
**Robert Hurley Holden**

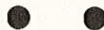
**Robert West's Second Gin at Diaz**







## Federal Compress



The first compress was built in Newport about 1878. It was located at the present site of the Southern Cotton Oil Company's steel seed houses. The builders were the St. Louis Compress Company. Later, they built a larger and more modern press on Plum Street and, still later, they built the present plant located on the MP RR about a mile North of the depot. This press handles from 40,000 to 50,000 bales of cotton per year. It is now known as the Federal Compress Company. Managers for the presses have been T. J. Gregg, W. H. Beard, and C. L. Fox; and the present manager is R. W. Parham.

The press employs from 50 to 100 men depending on the time of the year in which they operate. Hundreds of trucks bring cotton into Newport each year to be stored and handled at the press.

This press is one of the best in the mid-South and capable of handling any size crop that may be produced in Jackson County.

## Federal Compress & Warehouse Company

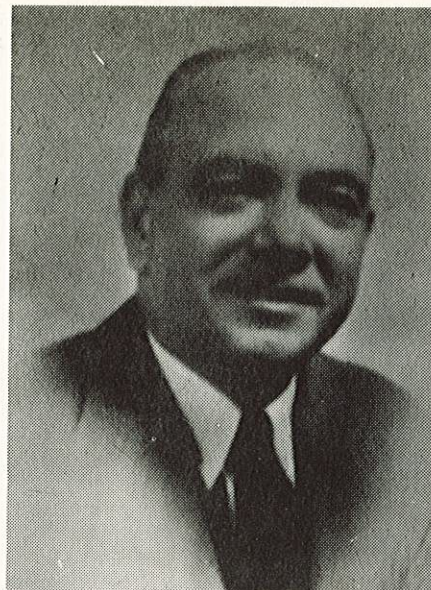
JA 3-4336

Newport, Arkansas





Walter Felix Hurley



W. F. "Buck" Hurley Jr.

## HURLEY GINS

In 1910 Walter F. Hurley built a gin at Diaz on the site of a gin previously owned by his father-in-law, Robert West. This gin, on the site of the present Hurley Gin at Diaz, was operated by a gasoline motor. It burned, but a new gin, electrically operated, was built back on the same site.

Walter F. "Buck" Hurley Jr. and Robert Hurley Holden, children of W. F. Hurley, assisted their father in the operation of the gin prior to his death in 1945. Thereafter, Robert Hurley Holden and Helen Hurley Baxter, daughters of W. F. Hurley, relinquished their interests in the gin at Diaz to their brother, "Buck" Hurley, who continued its operation.

"Buck" Hurley began a program of expansion in 1944 when he assumed management of the gin. In addition to his cotton operations, he became one of the largest independent soybean dealers in the state. He also developed a large cattle-breeding operation.

When "Buck" Hurley died in 1962 he was president and principal stockholder of the Buck Hurley Farms, Inc., Hurley Farms, Inc., Buck Hurley Gin, Brinkley, White and Cache Rivers Land Company, Hurley Pickett Lake Farms, Auvergne Gin, Inc., Buck Hurley Shoffner Gin, Inc., Shoffner Mercantile Co., Inc., and the Buck Hurley Gin at Amagon. He was the sole owner of the Walter F. Hurely Gin at Diaz. Since his death, his family has maintained operation of his various enterprises.

Sponsored by —

**Hurley Gins**



W. F. Hurley Gin at Diaz





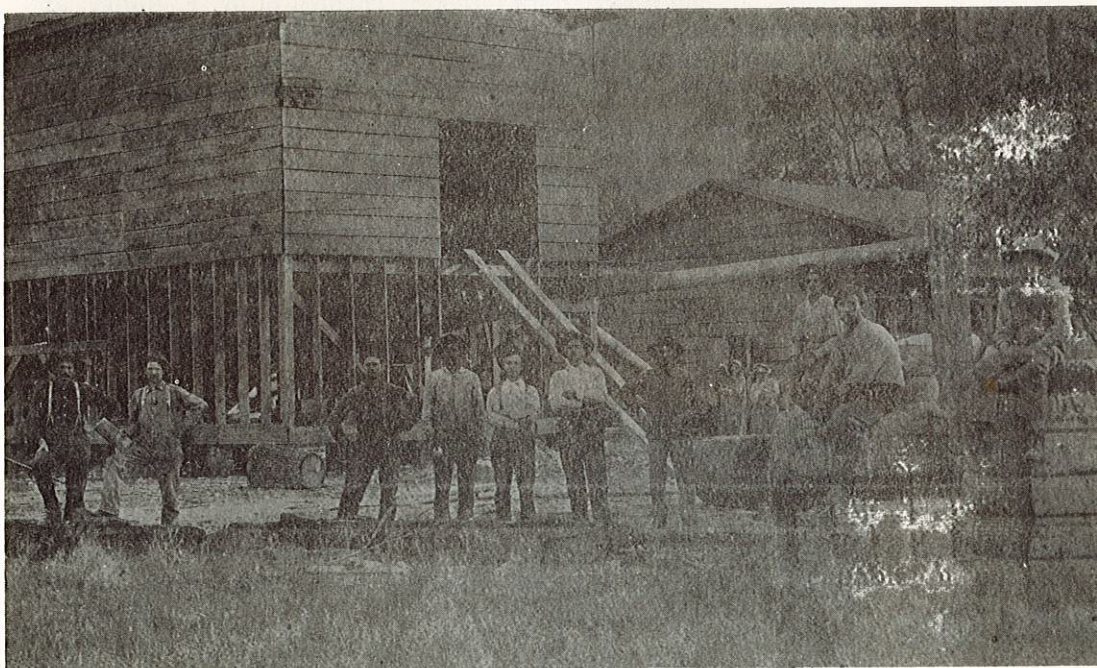
John R. Loftin's Livery Stable, 1905

Located 112-14-16 Beech Street Newport; burned in July 1906.

Sponsored by -

**Mann A. Shoffner,**  
Shoffner, Arkansas

Livestock and Farming



DENTON BROTHERS GIN, GRUBBS

Sponsored by -

**Denton Brothers Gin Company**  
Grubbs, Arkansas

1903 — 1965





**Fred Holden**



**Charles Holden**



**Robert Holden**

In 1879 the Rev. John J. Holden, a Methodist preacher, and his wife, Mary Jane (nee Ellingham), of Astoria, N. Y., exchanged town property in Astoria for 520 acres of unimproved land on Village Creek in Jackson County. With their three sons (John Robert, Charles Ellingham, and George), they came to their land, knowing nothing about farming. Their neighbors showed them how to clear and fence their land. Mr. Holden farmed with his sons until his death. Thereafter, John R. and Charles Holden continued farming in partnership, George moving to Louisville, Ky., until 1918, when they dissolved partnership.

The Holden Brothers (John R. and Charles) operated a sawmill and gin west of Cathey's Store on Highway 18 for several years before 1908, when the sawmill was closed due to the expiration of the timber contract. At the site of the sawmill a community developed, with a store, boarding house, and other houses. As many as 25 families lived in the community, Milltown, at its height. The Holdens also operated a stave mill at Campbell Station around 1911.

After dissolving partnership, both John R. and Charles Holden continued to farm separately. Charles Holden bought out R. D. Torian's interest in Hayes Motor Co. in Newport in 1928, buying out the remaining interest of Dr. L. T. Hayes in 1931. In 1932, he obtained the Chrysler and Plymouth dealership, Holden Motor Co. being the oldest dealership in Northeast Arkansas. When Charles Holden obtained the Company, it was located at the corner of 2nd and Laurel, next door to the Newport Independent. In 1938, the present site on 3rd Street was built. For several years Holden Motor Co. had the only automobile body repair shop in Newport. From 1932 to 1948 it had the only wrecker service. Before the death of Charles Holden in 1951, he was assisted in operation of Holden Motor Co. by his two sons, Fred and Robert Holden, who have remained in business together since that time.

## **Holden Motor Company**

**In business under the same management since 1928**

**JA 3-5845**

**Newport, Arkansas**



## Empie - Van Dyke Home

One of the first homes built in Newport in the Late Victorian Style of architecture in the 1880's.



Left to right: Miss Ada Remmel; Mrs. Lula Empie Van Dyke; Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Empie; Patrick, the coachman; and "Madge."

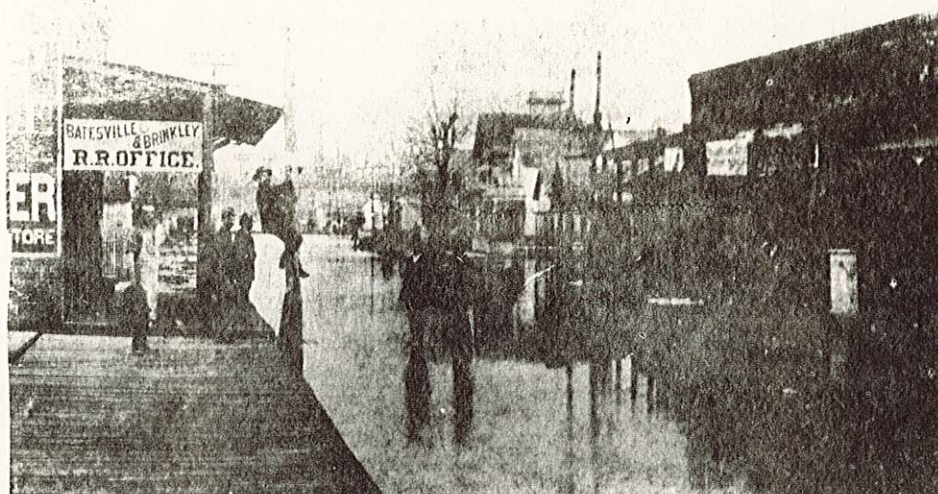
During our thirty-four years in business, we have worked for the progress and growth of Jackson County.

As a result WE have GROWN into Northeast Arkansas' leading Furniture Store, as traditional as Old Jacksonport, as contemporary as Modern Newport.

**Van Dyke's** Newport



First Block of Hazel Street, Newport, 1890's



No wonder they had raised, wooden sidewalks!

**BROWNLEE & ROGERS, Inc.**

Contractors

Suppliers

Newport Division

Highway 67 North

Newport Post Office, 1899



Left to right: Hollie Cobb, Berry Best, Cary Davidson, W. B. Empie,  
Maury Stevens, Percy Finch, Dot Gunter

**GRIMES DRUG STORE**

Serving Jackson County Since 1931

JA 3-3667

**STUART HARDWARE CO.**

304 Front

JA 3-4245



**CITY DRUG STORE**

Tuckerman, Arkansas

**PROCTER CONOCO  
SERVICE STATION**Yours for Fine Service  
Newport, Arkansas**"All Day Dinner"**

A hospitable custom in Jackson County in the late 1890's was the gathering of many friends for what was called an "all day dinner". The picture below was taken at such an occasion at the E. L. Watson home on Main and Second Streets in Newport.



Left to right: Top row—Aunt Lou Bell, Miss Josie Brandenburg. Second row: Aunt Thom Matthews, Mrs. Bach, Mrs. Lester, Mrs. T. J. Watson, Mrs. Fanny Jago, Aunt Liza Guynn, Aunt Violet Robinson, (colored), Mrs. Anna Magoffin, Mrs. Mag Hudson, Mrs. Jennie Dillard, Mrs. Virginia Hobgood, Mrs. M. B. Umsted, Mrs. Dr. Smith, Mrs. Louise Empie, Mrs. John Flynn, Aunt Dink McDonald, Mrs. Charles Hite, Jr. Third row: Aunt Joe Brown, Mrs. Laura Dills, Minnie Lee Jago, Madie Stephens, Mrs. E. L. Watson, Mrs. Ella Doswell, Aunt Lizzie Robinson, Mrs. Sallie Stayton, Aunt Molly Lucas. Front row (seated): Aunt Mary Daugherty, Mrs. Hall Dyer, E. L. Watson, Mrs. Martha Frances Huddleston, Aunt Tant Foushee, Mrs. Guy Smith.

**KNBY RADIO STATION**

Highway 67 North

Newport

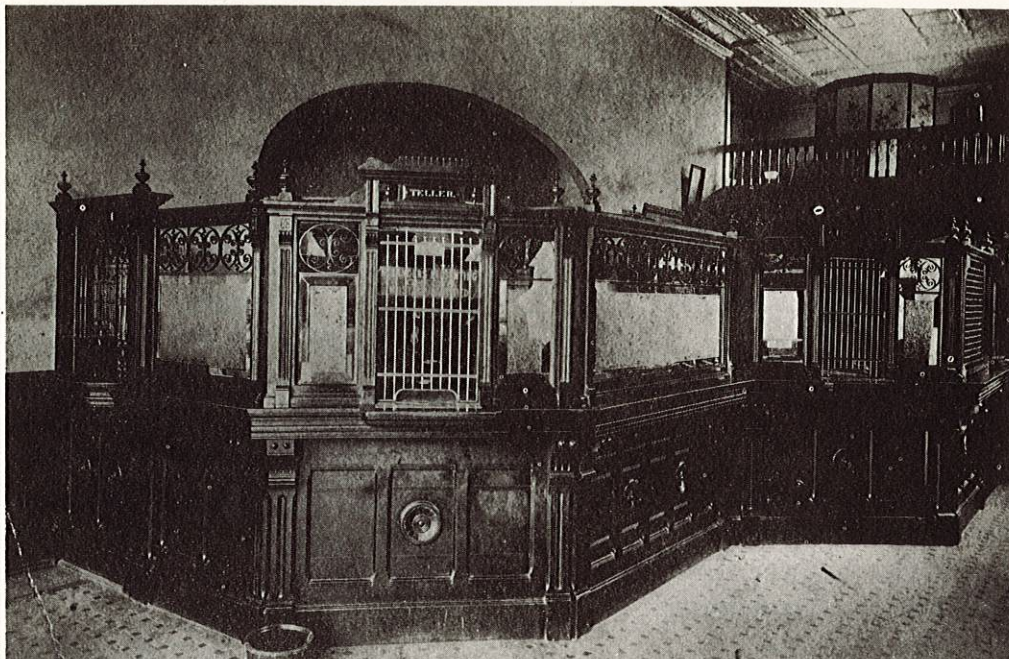
**GREER FARMS**

Weldon, Arkansas

Raymond A. Greer    Athlene Cruse Greer



## FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF NEWPORT



### FIRST NATIONAL BANK

The First National Bank was first organized in 1892 as the "Jackson County Savings Bank" by a board of eleven men: Sigmund Wolff, president, L. Hirsch, G. W. Hurley, A. Bach, E. G. Thompson, J. T. Henderson, N. P. Wishon, B. C. Manson, S. Brach, W. A. Joyce and W. A. Billingsley, with a total capital stock of \$12,600. The bank became the first national bank in Newport in 1903, and the title of the bank was changed to The First National Bank. The building shown above was erected on Hazel street in 1896.

Mr. Jack C. Owen is now president and the bank has resources of \$8,954,744. Plans have been completed for a bank building to be constructed on Second and Hazel during the coming year.





# *Dedication*

## *Civil War Centennial Markers*

*In Observance  
Of the Surrender of Confederate Army of North Arkansas,  
Jacksonport  
June 5, 1865*

Sons of Confederate Veterans ..... Artillery Demonstration, Admirals  
Band, Naval Airbase, Memphis Concert  
Ralph Sink & Jas. Wallace ..... "Salute to the Colors"  
S. C. V. Units ..... Salute to Confederate Flag  
Bob Evans ..... Master of Ceremonies  
Introduction: Civil War Centennial  
Commission & Honored Guests  
Dr. John L. Ferguson ..... History of Surrender  
Judge Neill Bohlinger ..... Tribute  
Mrs. Charles Loewer, United ..... Wreath at Marker  
Daughters of Confederacy  
Mrs. Lady E. Luker, ..... Wreath at Marker  
Historical Society  
S. C. V. .... Lower Confed. Flag to Half-Mast  
Bugler ..... "Taps"  
S. C. V. .... Rifle Volley

Intermission: Barbecue, Cold Drinks; Tour Home Demonstration Club booths; Free Surrey  
Rides; Band, 'Five Beaux & A Belle', Folk Songs, Hummers & Strummers', Tour of Court-  
house.

### IN APPRECIATION

Gen. Chairman: Mrs. Lady E. Luker  
Co-Chairman: Mrs. Mildred Minor Gregory

#### Committees:

Souvenir Program: Mrs. Ralph McDonald, Chairman; James Morgan, Mrs. Ruby Rankin, Mrs.  
John Purdy, Claude Erwin, Jr., Mrs. James Graham, Mrs. Lon Phillips, Darrell Fortune, Mrs.  
A. F. Minor, Mrs. Wayne Boyce, Mrs. Lady Luker and Mrs. Mildred M. Gregory.

Medallions: P. K. Holmes, Chairman; Van Manning, Joe Brownd, Ray Fann, Chas. Norman.

Design Medallions: Mrs. Mildred M. Gregory & Miss Carol Martin

Publicity: Mrs. Mildred Minor Gregory & Phillip McDonald

#### Invitations

Hostesses: Mrs. Clyde McDonald, Mrs. Reuben Harper, & Mrs. Kendall Moore

Registration: Mrs. Ruby Rankin & Mrs. Lairs Miller

Speaker Platforms: Leonidas Mack & J. E. Wilmans

Decorations Stages: Mrs. Lorene Wilard, Chr. and Ladies of Jacksonport

Flag Poles & Communications: Jerry Molleston

Booths & Tents: Willis Martin, Carl Cross, Frank Moore



# *Dedication*

## *Jacksonport State Park*

*at*

## *Courthouse Grounds*

Admirals Band ..... Concert River Songs  
Bob Evans ..... Master of Ceremonies  
Introduction: State Officials,  
Commissioners of Ark. Publicity  
& Parks Commission, Guests  
Senator Bob Harvey ..... Welcome & Introduction Gov. Faubus  
Gov. Orval E. Faubus ..... Address  
S. C. V. .... Lower Confederate Flag & Fold.  
Raise U. S. & Ark. Flags  
Buglers ..... "Salute to the Colors"  
Muzzle-Loading Association ..... Shooting Match on River Bank

### IN APPRECIATION

Scenes & Customs Booths: ..... Miss Carol Martin, Chr., Members  
Jackson Co. Home Demonstration Clubs  
Ticket Sellers: ..... Luther McCartney & Committee  
Barbecue: ..... Prepared by Members Newport Fire Dept.  
Disposal Cans: ..... Courtesy of Victor Metal Corp.  
Traffic: ..... City Police Chief, Tom Stroud; State Police  
Capt. Bill Walker; Johnny Moore  
Parking: ..... Mayor Paul Massey, Sheriff Ralph  
Henderson & Deputies  
Chairs: ..... Oattie Dillinger  
Horses & Riders: ..... Wayne Collier, chr. Saddle Club of Jackson Co.  
Surreys: ..... Ark-La Village, Ark-La Gas Co.,  
J. N. Hout & A. F. Minor  
Buggy & Carts: ..... Holman Lindsey & Bob Gardner  
Buglers: ..... Ralph Sink & James Wallace  
Cooking Facilities & Flags: ..... Newport High School, Supt. John Mullins



## AMAGON

The land on which the town of Amagon stands today was owned by Will Pennington at the turn of the century. In 1964 the Bonnaville Southern railroad was built, and at this point a settlement began to grow and was given the name of Red Hill. Bud Mitchell built a general store; Stringer and Bobbet operated a sawmill; Hunt and White had a blacksmith shop, and a Mrs. Deavers ran a hotel.

Sometime later a timber man by the name of Ragon, realizing the chance for a profitable business, came here. Mr. Ragon later changed the name of the town to Amagon. The postoffice was established in 1912. Wes Cooper was the first postmaster and Elzie Balch brought the mail to Amagon from the Balch post-office.

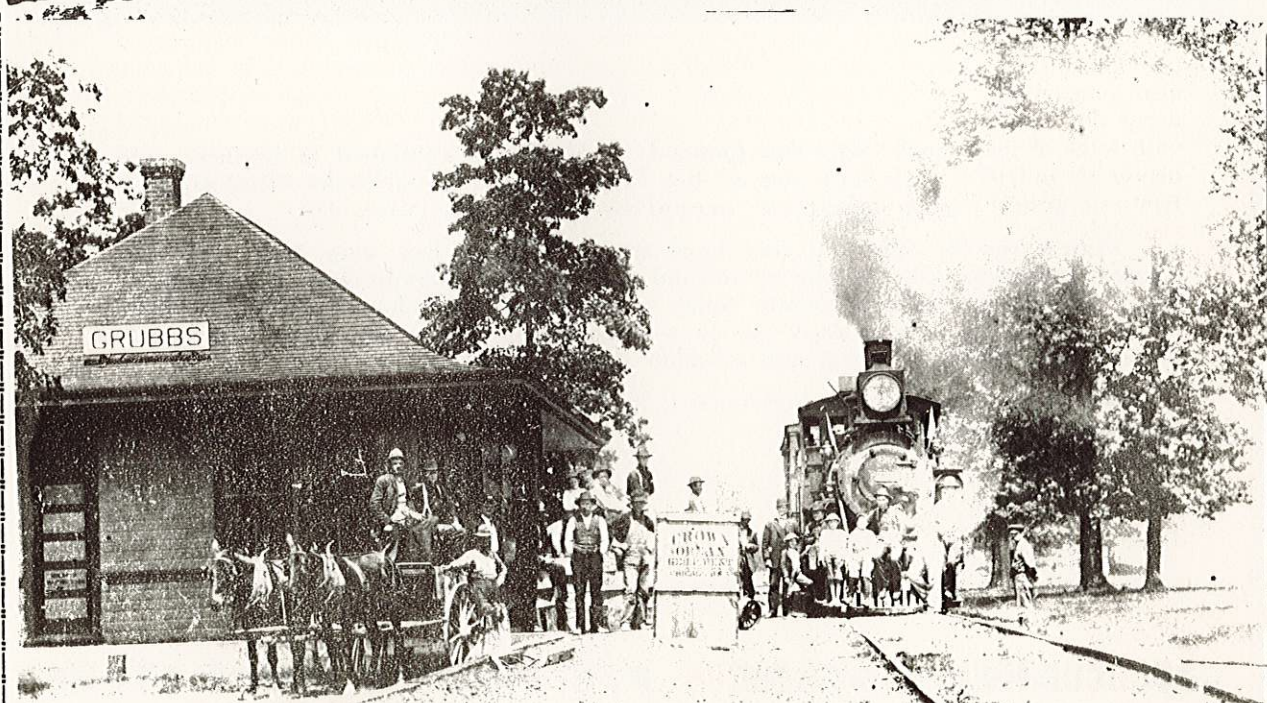
Now this is one of the finest small towns in our county, with several stores, cafes, a gin and churches. It is in the midst of a rich farming area, and some of the best people found anywhere live here.

### O. E. FARMER AND SON

General Merchandise

Odis E. Farmer

Warren Farmer



### CASTLEBERRY'S STORE

Amagon

Roy Castleberry

Eva Lee Castleberry

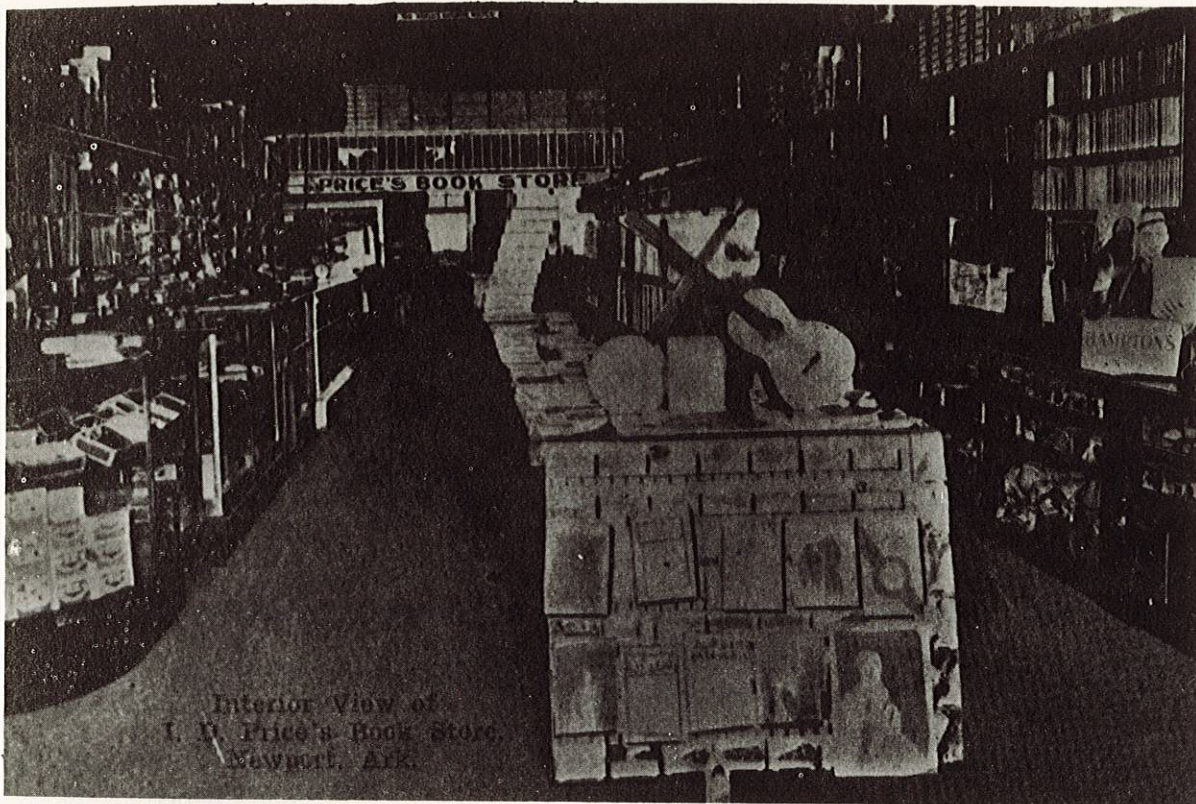
### NEWPORT BUILDING SUPPLY

Newport

105 E. Front

JA 3-3607





Interior View of  
I. D. Price's Book Store,  
Newport, Ark.

I. D. Price's Book Store was founded in 1884 and continued in business until his death in 1921. Location was at 402 Front Street. School books, office supplies, sporting goods, cigars, magazines, musical instruments, etc., were sold.

Price's was the only first class book store Newport has ever had. All the classical literature, in beautifully bound and and illustrated editors, were kept in stock. Many libraries in Jackson County today were started with volumes sold here. Party favors and games were spread out on a long table, where Mr. Price indulgently allowed the children to linger and examine them.

Mr. Price was born in Jacksonport in 1856, lived in Augusta for awhile, and them moved to Newport.

**BEN FRANKLIN STORE**

**P. K. HOLMES MEN'S STORE**

Newport, Arkansas



## **"THE OIL MILL"**

The Southern Cotton Oil Company began operation in Newport in the early 1890's in a building on Plum Street, where it received some of its cotton seed from steamboats. This mill burned in 1895 and the present mill was begun on land donated by the City of Newport in 1898. It was a small four press mill and bought seeds from nearby cotton gins only. Most of the seed was hauled in by wagons over dirt roads.

In 1930 the mill began a period of expansion, and by 1940, it had grown to be one of the major mills of its organization. Many new additions were installed. It has paid to the sellers of cottonseed in a wide territory up to \$6,000,000 a year.

The mill has furnished cottonseed and hulls to feeders in Jackson County ever since it was built and has been a money saving convenience to cattle raisers and dairymen. It also produces linters for northern factories, and oil to its own refineries in the South.

It is considered one of the largest soybean and cottonseed oil producing plants west of the Mississippi River, furnishing employment for about 100 people, not including about 50 truckers. The mill also handles fertilizer, cotton poison, bagging and ties.

On a shaded area between the mill and the river, a beautiful park is maintained which was named in honor of A. D. Geoghegan, its president at the time the mill was created.

The first manager of the Newport mill was Mr. Johnston. J. E. Doherty, manager for forty-five years, 1912-1957, is associated with the expansion and diversification of the mill, lending his genial personality and wit to create friendly relations with the entire county.

Jerry Jeffery has been manager since 1957, and the Old Mill has continued to be an integral part of the farming and industrial business of Newport. In 1959 the Southern Cotton Oil Company combined with Hunt Foods and Industries, Inc., and is now the Southern Cotton Oil Division of that company. But it has been one of the unchanging threads of continuity in the life of Newport for so long, that when the familiar blasts of the whistle are heard, we simply say "There's the Oil Mill—its seven o'clock."

## **SOUTHERN COTTON OIL DIVISION**

**HUNT FOODS AND INDUSTRIES, INC.**

**MANUFACTURERS**

**COTTONSEED PRODUCTS**

**HIGH QUALITY FERTILIZERS**

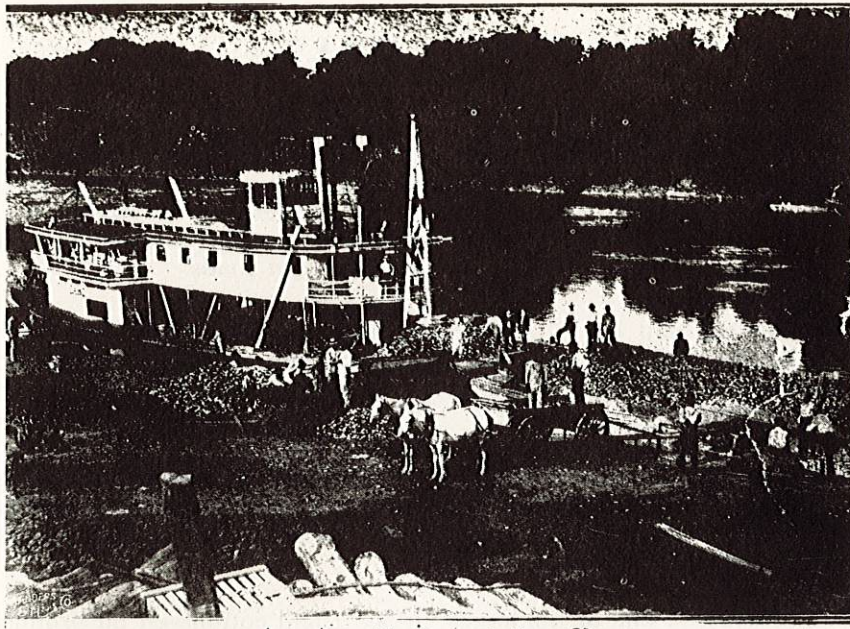
**SOYBEANS**

**1898**

**NEWPORT, ARKANSAS**

**1965**





Loading Shells on White River

## PEARLS

Dr. J. H. Meyers of Black Rock investigated the value of pearls in fresh water mollusks, our common Mussel, in 1897, when he found a pearl in Black River. Indians had found and worn these "pretty beads" centuries before, but no white settlers seem to have discovered, or at least paid any attention to them before this time.

The value of the pearls fired people's imagination but at first no serious effort was made to dig deep into the mussel beds. Hunting for pearls along the shallow edges of sandbars became a fad for young ladies and men as a summer past-time. Finally a Negro man appeared in Newport with a perfect pearl. Mr. Guy Brown sent it to a buyer for him, and it brought the surprising price of \$1,400. Other buyers heard about it and the lid was off! Professional diggers came with grappling hooks; fisherman filled their boats with mussel shells instead of fish; and a rough element of people began to move into the county along the river banks.

What the river yielded in its great and generous gift was astounding. Tinted delicately like the rainbow lining of the shells, these were rare and beautiful pink pearls, so many of them perfect that they soon became in demand on the world market. Several business men in Newport became pearl dealers. Boswell and Tom Umsted, Dr. Henry Owen Sr., Sol Heinemann. Boswell Umsted took the pearls to Europe himself, selling them directly to Paris and London gem dealers. A Newport pearl is set in one of the royal crowns of England.

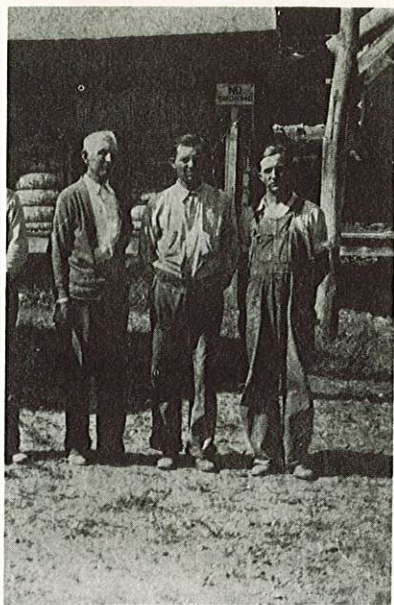
By 1905, it was estimated that this community had realized \$1,271,000 from pearls and shells, and that was only the beginning.

The mussel shells were sold by the ton for the production of "pearl buttons". The Chalmers Button Company was the first to open in Newport. Dick Bullock ran it until his death, a man by the name of Igeert succeeding him. The button factory was later sold to a button company in Musketine, Iowa, and their manager was a Mr. Windau. Mr. Sol Heinemann started his own button factory.

Imperfect pearls and slugs were sold for costume jewelry. Another use for slugs was most exotic. London firms bought them and shipped them to India, where they were ground to a power and swallowed as love charms.

Compliments of  
**RALPH McDONALD, JR:**  
 Newport, Arkansas





Left to right: Columbus C. Byrd, John Ross, Everett Lewis. Grubbs.

Sponsored by -

**Celestine Byrd Phillips**  
Grubbs

## WOO WOO CLUB



Can you find the banker?

**First National Bank**  
Tuckerman



In 1883 Lancelot Minor, a Newport businessman and lawyer, installed a telephone system in Newport, with his office at Hazel and Front as the exchange.

The picture shown here was taken in 1910 when the company was known as the Southwestern Telegraph and Telephone Co. One of the operators at the switchboard is Maude Dunham Risner, sister of Mrs. Joe Hunter, chief operator of the Southwestern-Bell system here for many years.

Compliments of -

**Communications Workers of America**

Local 6505  
Newport, Arkansas





**Bank of Grubbs Established 1909**

**Left to right: unidentified; Abb Guffey; John Williams, cashier; Mr. Hopkins.**

Sponsored by

Lyman Azbill

**SERVISOFT INCORPORATED**

Tuckerman

## Newport Daily Independent

The Newport Daily Independent was founded in 1901 by P. H. Van Dyke and E. C. Hoffman. Mr. Hoffman left in 1902, and Van Dyke was sole owner until 1918, when he sold it to Mr. and Mrs. Austin Wilkerson. Mr. Wilkerson died in 1935, and Mrs. Wilkerson and her daughter, Mrs. O. I. Richolson Jr., continue to publish the Daily and Weekly Independent.

It is the longest, continuous publication of any newspaper in Jackson County.

Mrs. A. C. Wilkerson and Mrs. O. I. Richolson, Jr. - - - - - Publishers  
O. I. Richolson, Jr. - - - - - Managing Editor  
Davis Ramsey - - - - - News Editor  
Ernest Mann, Jr. - - - - - Mechanical Supt.

Virgin hardwood timber was a major export from Jackson County in the 1870's. A report in the United States Dept. of Agriculture Year Book, 1875, had this notation: "Jackson County, Ark., is heavily timbered. The trade in White Oak staves for the European market is important. There are about 3,000 acres of White Oak, on which standing timber is worth \$20 per acre; 1000 of Walnut worth \$25 per acre. Considerable Black Walnut is floated to New Orleans for the furniture market."

High quality lumber continued to be shipped from the county until about 1940, but since that time most of the wood land has been cleared for farm cultivation or pasture.

Compliments of  
**Western Auto Store**

Malcolm Ave.

'A modern thriving business'



## LADIES ON 1890 BOATING PARTIES WERE NOT SUPPOSED TO SWIM



Left to right: Marie Bach Mansfield, Bessie Watson Erwin, Ella Doswell Wilmans, Mrs. Laura Doswell, Lucile Taylor, Mrs. Norman Wolff, Edmund Taylor. Ladies in two boats on the right unidentified. Frank Caldwell in straw hat.

## EUCHRE PARTY 1906



Left to right: Mrs. Gus Jones, Kate Watson Bennett, Mrs. Bob Harder, Mrs. Nette Bond, Mrs. Sweet Minor, two unknown ladies, Miss Bessie Watson, O. D. Watson, Mrs. Jim Watson, Miss Stevie Fagan, Mrs. Josie Bailey, Mrs. Anna Wilmans, Mrs. Ethel Stainback, Mrs. Lady Elizabeth Bridgman, Mrs. Lib Maris, Mrs. Mannie Hooker, and another unidentified lady.

## AMERICAN MOTEL

Nita and Bill Fortune, Owners

Highway 67

Newport

JA 3-5851



Our Congratulations upon this fine  
community project!

**SMITH  
CONCRETE PRODUCTS**

JA 3-4271

Newport, Arkansas

**BROWN-JORDAN CORP.**

and

**AMERICAN LANTERN CO.**

Newport, Arkansas

**CONFEDERATE REUNIONS AT OLD ELIZABETH**



6th Annual Reunion, Tom Hindman Camp No. 318, United Confederate Veterans  
September 5-8, 1899, Camp Pat Cleburne, Newport.

From 1893 to about 1900, the Confederate Veterans in Jackson County held Reunions in September of each year at the site of Old Elizabeth. County seat from 1830 to 1952, Elizabeth was on a bluff bank of White River halfway between Newport and Jacksonport. The bank began to cave in the 1840's and eventually the town was deserted.

The Veterans camped together here for one whole week to see old comrades, retell old battle stories. Atmosphere was literally recreated with a sham battle as the high point of the week. Cannon and rifle fire kept up a din of ear-splitting noise and smoke, the Rebel Yell rang down the river, almost as vibrant as it had sounded thirty years before from youthful throats.

The "wounded" were bandaged, and realistically stained with red dye. The Confederates always won, of course, and with the close of each encampment the old warriors dispersed into their own Valhalla, with a certain unconquered gleam in their eyes, as well as many a tear.



LOVELY STYLES FOR LOVELY LADIES

**SHANNON-RITTER  
DRUG COMPANY**

"We appreciate your trade"

JA 3-3411

312 Front St.



**TOM & WARDELL'S CAFE**

JA 3-9664

Highway 67 North

**GENE SALENFRIEND**

JA-3-2148

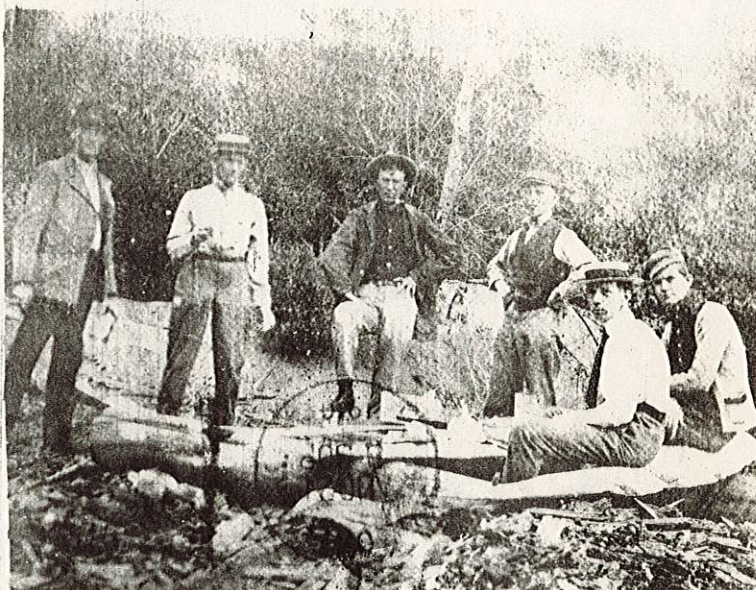
410 Front St.

**HUNTING PARTY**

Jackson County was always a land of bountiful game and fish. From the days of early trappers and bear hunters, men have loved to hunt. This is a typical scene of a group of friends spending several days in the woods. Some camps were planned simply, some elaborately, with provisions and cooks to help prepare succulent feasts at the end of each day out of fresh fish, wild duck or venison.

pw

Left to right: W. A. Billingsley, Lawrence Bailey, Tom Gregg, Sam Phillips, two unidentified.

**HOUSEPARTY AT HEBER SPRINGS—1912**

Houseparties were favorite social activities.

Front row: Warren Dunaway, Bessie Watson, Hortense Hite, Kate Harder, Norine Kinman Parish, Katherine Walsh, Leah Jones Hurt, Jamie Irby Hinkle, Roy Hinkle, Lucy Bailey, Franchelle Hooker Stephens, Lawrence Bailey, Elizabeth Irby, Garland Hurt. Back row: Joe Bevans, Jan Young, Ruth Dunaway, Billy Parish.

**IVY BROTHERS  
CONSTRUCTION CO.**

JA 3-4564

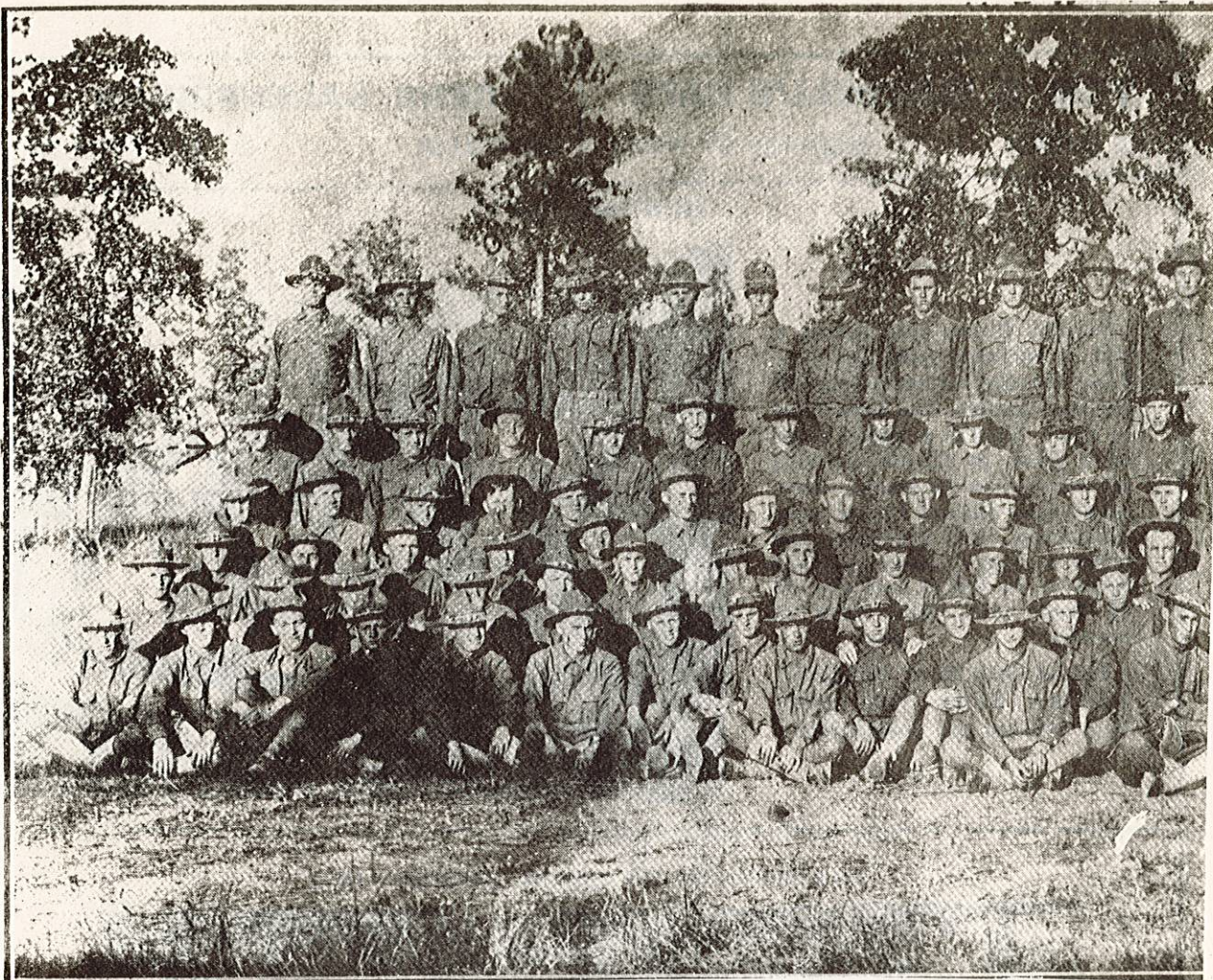
1611 Dill St.

**FARMERS SUPPLY CO.**

Front and Beech

Newport, Ark.





### COMPANY "E"

One Hundred and Fifty-Fourth Infantry, Thirty-Ninth Division, U. S. A.  
(FORMERLY THIRD ARKANSAS NATIONAL GUARD)

#### SERGEANTS

ALBERT BEVANS  
ELMER E. PATTON  
FRANK HUBERT  
THEODORE R. SHELL  
HARRY LITTLETON  
ROGER E. GOODMAN  
JOHN E. PARROTT, Jr.  
JAMES W. LONG

LON B. SIMMONS  
JOHN P. HESTER  
LONNIE B. COLEMAN  
GEO. M. STOCKTON  
ARTHUR G. JOHNSTON

#### MECHANICS

JOHN M. McNEES  
GEO. MILLER

#### CORPORALS

JOHN B. JAMISON  
IRA S. JONES  
TOM McFALL  
D. B. NELSON  
D. S. ROBERTS  
EUGENE B. BAKER  
ALVA P. SANDERSON  
E. J. TAYLOR  
NEILL GRIFFIN  
HENRY O. PETTET  
CLAUDE W. HIGHLAND  
JULIUS PICKENS

#### BUGLERS

NED MALLARY  
ROY TURRENTINE

#### COOKS

LOYD CASTEEL  
JOHN GREEN  
BYRON W. BURSCOTT

#### FIRST CLASS PRIVATES

SAM F. AVERILL

SIMPSON P. BLANSETT  
RAY BROWN  
EDGAR COE  
MORRIS W. CRISS  
LEE R. CRUM  
OWEN DAVENPORT  
LUTHER EDWARDS  
CLAUD A. FOUSHEE  
ROBERT P. FIKE  
O. T. GRAVETTE  
CHESTER HARDIN  
CLAUD C. HARRIS  
RAYMOND P. HODGE  
FOREST J. JEFFREY  
FOREST R. LAWRENC  
LEO L. LONG  
FINIS A. MASSEY  
JAMES H. McLAIN  
KELLEY J. MURPHY  
LON. PHILLIPS  
SAM A. RATTERREE  
ELMER L. SHOWNES  
WILLIAM E. SKIDMORE  
STINSON VERDELL  
BURLE WILSON  
CAM R. YOUNG

**MACK & MASEK**

Decker Farms, Tuckerman

George Decker Sold to

Graham Brothers Co., Sept. 12, 1904

Bly Story, Manager





### Captain Garland Hurt

First Lieutenant Eugene A. Hirsch

Second Lieutenant Charles W. Sprigg

First Sergeant Wm. L. Childers

Mess Sergeant Kirk Vaughan

Supply Sergeant James E. Sprigg

#### PRIVATES

BEECHER A. ALLEN  
DEWITT T. ALLEN  
WELVY ATWOOD  
CLYDE O. BAKER  
PHILLIP H. BALLARD  
EDGAR E. BATSON  
ELMER E. BUTLER  
ELDEN BOWAMN  
EDMUND J. BROCK  
ALEXANDER BUNCH  
WILLIAM U. CAMPBELL  
WILLIAM A. CARNETT  
SIM CATHEY  
JAMES A. CLARK  
JOHN T. COE  
ALTO D. COFFIN  
MILTON D. COFFIN  
HENRY DAVIS  
I. T. DAVIS  
OLIVER DIXON  
JOHN M. EDWARDS  
JAMES R. FORTUNE  
RAYMOND C. FREEMAN  
TILMAN E. HALL

JAMES HAMILTON  
CON M. HARPER  
JOHNIE E. HATCHER  
ENOCH HEADLEY  
WILEY HESTER  
RICHARD HINSHAW  
CARL HINSON  
JAMES O. HOLT  
WALTER HOWELL  
MONROE INMAN  
SIM IVY  
TAYLOR IVY  
ISAAC C. JEFFERY  
CHESTER JONES  
HIRAM JONES  
JESSE D. JONES  
LEE JONES  
ROY JONES  
MATTHEW KIMBRELL  
CULVER E. KNOWLES  
CORD. LAMKINS  
LUM. LANCASTER  
HERMAN O. LANE  
JACOB E. LAWRENCE  
JESS LEMONS  
GEO. D. McELRATH

ARTHUR MASSEY  
JOHN McLAIN  
JOE METCALF  
BUD. MOORE  
THOMAS B. MROSS  
CHARLEY PARMLEY  
DELL C. PARMLEY  
HOMER L. PATRICK  
JOHN V. RHOADS  
HERMAN L. RICHARD  
BEN F. ROBERTS  
CHARLES RYAN  
HARRISON SEWARD  
LON B. SIMMONS  
CLAURENCE SMALLEY  
NOEAL A. SPARKS  
THOMAS J. TIMS  
BUD TONEY  
CLAURENCE TIREY  
HERMAN THOMPSON  
ROBERT WEATHERLEY  
GEORGE WEATHERMAN  
OGEY M. WILLIAMS  
JAMES M. WOODS  
THOMAS YEARRY  
GEORGE V. GILBERT



**NATIONAL FABRIC CENTER**  
518 Front Newport

**NEWPORT OIL COMPANY, INC.**  
Distributor, American Oil Co.

**THE OVERFLOW OF 1915**



In front of the Commercial Hotel



Front Street



Courthouse at Third and Main



Second block of Hazel Street

**BURFORD'S**  
The Gift Nook "Heaven Through Young Junior" Newport



## THE EVA GRAHAM SHOP

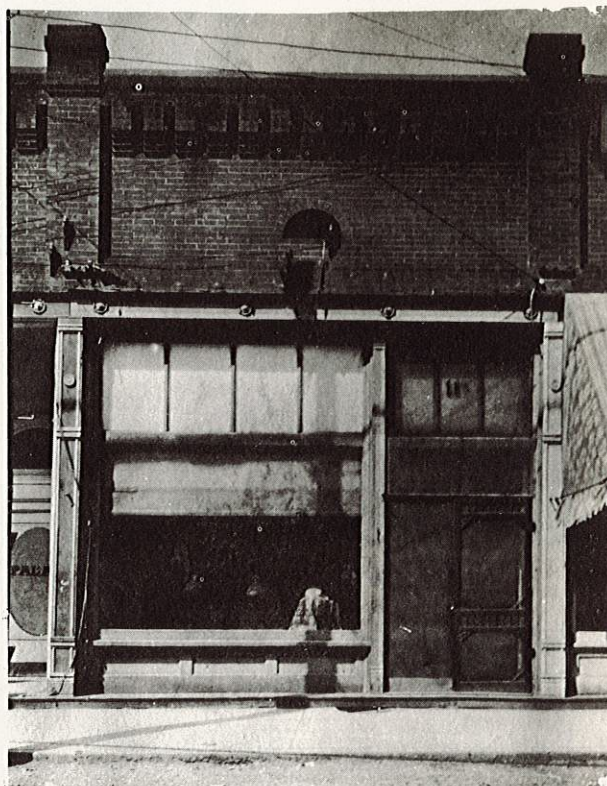
Oldest Continuous Retail Store in Jackson County

The Eva Graham Shop was founded by Miss Eva Graham in 1894 on the balcony of the John Wallace's Mercantile Store in Newport. Miss Graham made ladies' hats for individual customers for many years. She bought a small stock of ready-made dresses from a drummer, the most expensive item selling for \$1.98. Her sister, Mrs. Ira Pickens, joined the business and succeeded Miss Graham as owner until 1957 when Ann Hout Penix bought the shop.

Mrs. Penix is the daughter of Mrs. J. N. Hout and the late Mr. Hout of Tuckerman. She continued the business under the same name.

During the Seventy-One years of steady business, the Eva Graham Shop has been developed into one of the outstanding women's stores of Northeast Arkansas. Mrs. Penix continues to bring exclusive, original lines and imports to Newport not to be found in other towns of this size.

During May of this year, the shop was moved to a new location on Walnut Street, occupying an entire building completely modernized and handsomely appointed.



Old Store

"We Dressed  
Your Grandmother  
Too"



New Store



# **"NO MAN'S LAND" in Newport, the Day After the BIG FIRE**



**Third Street**



**Main Street**



**Walnut Street**



**SPONSORED BY NEWPORT INSURANCE EXCHANGE**

**Hinkle-McDonald Agency**

**McCartney-Manning Agency**

**A. F. Minor and Company**

**Newport Insurance Agency**

**Joe Stafford Agency**



**RAY NICHOLSON**  
Welding and Machine Works, Inc.  
Newport, Arkansas  
Phone JA 3-5861

**HEADLEE'S  
REXALL DRUGS**  
1011 Malcolm Newport

## "THE FIRE"

Just as "The War" means only the Civil War to Southerners, so "The Fire" means only one fire to Newport—that fateful day, March 1st, 1926, when the whole world seemed to be one raging, orange blast of flames and wind.

Starting at the V. O. Jones Lumber Company and the Merryman Cooperage Company on the river, the fire was swept by a wind of gale velocity over the southern half of the town. 365 homes were burned in three hours, 1500 people rendered homeless, and at least \$1,500,000 loss in property.

Facts and figures, however, do not begin to tell the story of the fire. People at first scrambled up on roof-tops with yard hoses and wet blankets; in addition to our Fire Department, those of Batesville, Searcy, and Walnut Ridge soon arrived but by that time the water pressure was completely gone. Fire hose burned in the streets along with furniture people had dragged from houses. Tar-soaked utility poles burned like popping, sizzling exclamation points; the bare trees blazed on all sides like gorgeous red and orange bouquets, limbs cracking and falling and blowing to catch something nearby.

Everybody tried to help everybody else, families got separated, people carried useless, ridiculous objects out of their houses, leaving family treasures and valuables unthought of. Cars were moved "out of danger", but were burned up before the owners got back to their homes. The whole sky was filled with bits and pieces of flaming objects like the "night the stars fell" in 1839. Because the fire occurred in the day time, only one life was lost. Mary Johnson, a Negro woman, ran back into her house for a small purse and was fatally burned. For the next week, with all familiar landmarks gone over a 30 block area, the hard-coal piles, standard fuel for home furnaces, burned with a slow, dull in an otherwise desolate and unrecognizable waste. World War veterans remarked that it looked like "No Man's Land" in the scarred and empty strip between opposing armies in France.

During that hellish day of the fire, and afterwards, telephone operators stayed at their posts for 24 or 26 hours at a stretch, the American Red Cross, the American Legion, the State Militia, and private aid from all over the state sent help and organized relief camps.

The Newport residents opened their homes and offices to burned-out families. There was very little vandalism, in fact there was very little left to steal. One upright piano miraculously escaped the fire on Second Street and remained at a tipsy angle, half in the ditch, for several days. Passers-by picked out a tune every now and then, but when retrieved by the owner it was undamaged.

But the amazing thing was the reaction of the Newport people. Everybody was effected by the fire, directly or indirectly. Hilarious stories of foolish things people had done or saved flew back and forth. Perhaps it was this very ability to laugh at the grotesque side of the whole thing that saved us. Without stopping to indulge in self pity, people threw themselves into a fever of planning and rebuilding. By the next fall, fifty percent of the homes were rebuilt.

Newport astounded the state with its optimism and energy, winning the nickname of "Plucky Newport" in news accounts over a wide area.

Compliments of  
**ARMSTRONG'S STORE**  
Tuckerman, Arkansas  
Since 1900

**SHERWIN-WILLIAMS  
PAINT COMPANY**  
508 Front Newport  
"Covers the Earth"



## BURTON MERCANTILE & GIN COMPANY

Beedeville and Tupelo

Burton Mercantile & Gin Company, Beedeville, was organized in 1923 as a partnership between D. H. Burton and the late M. B. Hare, both of Newport. They purchased the store and cotton gin from the Beede Brothers of Beedeville. At the time of this purchase, Burton and Hare were part-owners of the Clements Mercantile Co., Auvergne; Burton was the manager. B. H. DeSears was hired to manage the new concern and served until 1926, when he became manager of the Ferrill Farm at Shoffner. D. H. Burton sold his interest in the Clements Merc. Co. in 1926 and assumed the active management of the Beedeville business, then known as Hare Mercantile and Gin Co. This company began acquiring land in Cow Lake Township and enjoyed a steady growth through the years. Hare and Burton continued as partners until Hare's death in 1934; a year later Burton bought the Hare interest from his estate.

R. Owen Burton, elder son of D. H. Burton, graduated from the University of Arkansas in 1934 and joined the firm as bookkeeper that fall. The Tupelo store, gin, and farm land was purchased from the Heckart Estate of Augusta in 1938. J. H. Snapp of Fitzhugh purchased an interest in the gin and was an active partner for a number of years. A short time before his death he sold his interest in the gin and several hundred acres of land to D. H. Burton. David Paul Burton, the younger son of D. H. Burton, graduated from the University of Arkansas in 1939 and joined the Tupelo operation as farm manager. Burton Mercantile & Gin Co. was incorporated in 1955 with D. H. Burton as president, D. P. Burton, vice president, and R. Owen Burton secretary-treasurer. David Owen Burton, son of R. Owen Burton, graduated from the University of Arkansas in 1960 and joined the firm as farm manager at Beedeville. In 1963 Stanley Bruce Burton, oldest of four sons of David Paul Burton, graduated from the University of Arkansas and joined the Tupelo operation as assistant farm supervisor.

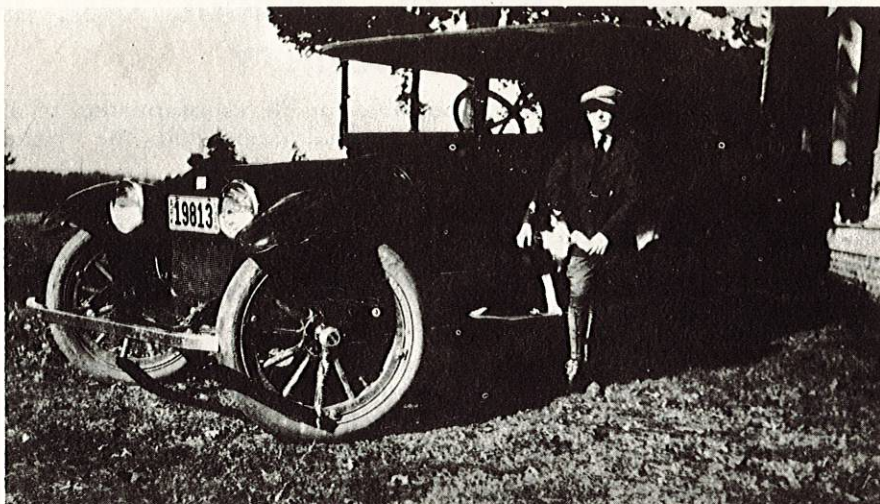
During D. H. Burton's active management of the business he was instrumental in organizing Farmers Oil Corp., Newport Rice Mill, Inc., Farmers Equipment Co., and Merchants & Planters Bank, all in Newport. At the present time he is serving as president of Farmers Oil Corp. and Newport Rice Mill and as chairman of the board of Merchants & Planters Bank. David Paul Burton is president of Farmers Equipment Co.

Burton Mercantile & Gin Co. became a franchise dealer of Ralston Purina Co. (St. Louis, Mo.) in 1938. In 1940 R. Owen Burton acquired the Purina franchise for Newport and Jackson County and organized Farmers Supply Co., with Cecil Guthrie as manager. Wayne Collier purchased an interest in Farmers Supply Co. in 1954 and became manager. The company was incorporated at this time, with R. Owen Burton as president, D. P. Burton, vice president, and Wayne Collier, secretary treasurer. Clarence Weaver is manager.

D. H. Burton was born at Bowen's Ridge on April 2, 1888. The place was known at that time as Layton and is now known as Blackville. He was one of eight children born to T. J. and Ada Jane (Murphy) Burton. T. J. Burton came to Arkansas in 1869 from Mississippi, where he was born March 15, 1847. He fought for the Confederacy in 1864-5. He was a son of Thomas Farrar and Nancy (Burton) Burton. Ada Jane Murphy was born at Bowen's Ridge, July 10, 1860; her parents were B. W. and Mary E. J. (McElwee) Murphy.

The Burton family has owned land in Jackson County for over 100 years and has been paying taxes on one parcel for almost that long.





Kendall Moore, seated on the running board of the Buick bought by his father in 1918, the year Mr. Van Dyke opened the Buick Agency in Newport. The Chevrolet Agency was added in 1928.

Mr. Moore bought the business in 1940 and has just celebrated the 25th anniversary of his ownership.

## **Kendall Moore Buick-Chevrolet**

**Newport, Arkansas**

## **Thaxton's New Furniture Store**

**IN CONTINUOUS  
OPERATION SINCE**

**1926**

**"THE STORE WITH A HEART"**



## **First Baptist Church**

**Grubbs, Arkansas**



## TRANSFORMATION OF AGRICULTURE IN JACKSON COUNTY

Three things have been mainly responsible for the transformation of agricultural development in Jackson County: drainage, mechanization, and the United States Government allotments on certain crop acreage.

Before the Swamp Land Acts in the 1860's only the sandy ridges and high bluff banks of the rivers were farmed. 75 per cent of the cleared land, even then, was needed to raise food for livestock and the family table. With drainage districts organized, the flat lands in the eastern part of the county and the "swamps" were cleared and cultivated.

Up until 1900, the small family unit and the large land owners used the same slow hand labor. The one-horse plow, two-horse cultivator and the hoe were augmented by the Avery "8" and double shovel, the V harrow, the Georgia Stock and Blue Bird. The 40 acre field was a familiar unit in farming terms.

After the First World War, Jackson County was one of the first areas in the state to begin mechanization. With the introduction of the 4-row tractor, one man could then cultivate 40 to 50 acres per day. Mack Brothers bought the first of these tractors in the county.

Cotton was still the big cash crop in the South until the U. S. Government Department of Agriculture assigned allotments in the 1940's. The small farms were doomed. Holdings were combined under one farm number and the best land chosen for cotton and rice, leaving many scattered fields to be utilized some other way. This hop, skip and jump farming required fast cultivation and plenty of equipment. The one family eighty-acre sharecropper was out.

The enterprising renters invested hundreds of thousands of dollars in equipment, rented from many different landowners and used their farming "know how" to plant and produce whatever was possible anywhere. Soy beans, the only unallotted crop, began to flood the county. Andy Doyle, Abe Jones, Jim Bailey, Albert Bullard, Leon and Chester Rutledge, Joe and Raymond Hardin, Ozzie Roden, Roy Madden, the Bridgeman brothers, Ben Dawson, Frank and Jimmy Rogers, Clay Meyers, Jimmy Breckenridge, Rufus Ball and Clint Carson, Bryant Boyster, Melvin Kieffer, Jud and Ino Reinecke, C. C. Lowery and others are as expert operators of diversified farming as can be found in the United States. Of course many landowners continue to run their own farms. Among these are Jim Thomas, John Keel, Tom Jones, the Wilmans, Grahams and Dentons. Many have established vast herds of registered and grade beef cattle. Hogs and chickens are raised in the most modern, scientific way.

Every method of farm improvement such crop rotation, drainage, irrigation, fertilizing, weed control, planting and dusting by plane, as well as cultivation and harvesting with newer and better machinery is utilized in Jackson County.

The total income from agriculture in Jackson County in 1964 was \$20,500,000. Breaking this down, 20,000 acres planted in rice produced \$3,660,000; 42,000 acres in cotton produced \$7,589,000, and 166,200 in Soybeans produced \$7,629,000, thus outstripping cotton for the first time in the history of the county. Livestock sales brought \$1,500,000 and small grains the rest. Agriculture is the county's biggest business and accounts for about 66 per cent of Jackson County's income.

This Page Sponsored By  
**WHITE RIVER PRODUCTION CREDIT ASSOCIATION**  
Newport, Arkansas



**MINERVA'S FLOWER SHOP**

324 Walnut St.

Newport, Ark.

**HUMBLE OIL REFINING CO.**

Highway 67 North

Newport, Ark.

**THE END OF THE JACKSONPORT RAILROAD SPUR**

The old B & B (named Batesville & Brinkley, because it began in Brinkley and was intended to go to Batesville, although it never did), later bought by the Rock Island Line, operated between Jacksonport and Brinkley from 1886 to 1927. One of its early conductors was Gus Martin.

During the flood of 1927, the fill of the roadbed was washed away and some 350 yards of railing was bent beyond use. The railroad sought bids for the burning of cars left at Jacksonport and the destruction of the rest of the railroad track as useless after the flood receded.

Ben Nelson, a native of Jackson County persuaded the roadmaster that the cars could be saved at much less cost than was first estimated. For the princely sum of \$750, Mr. Nelson rebuilt the roadbed, laid rails, and, using three 700-lb. mules, pulled seven cars from Jacksonport to Newport. The company was able to salvage all seven. The line to Jacksonport was never rebuilt; but trains ran between Newport and Brinkley until 1941.



In Memory of

**SAM W. HARVEY**

Merchant—Ginner—Planter  
Tuckerman, Arkansas

Mrs. Clara Harvey Dowell

In Memory of

**GEORGE W. PARROTT**

and his son

**JOHN E. PARROTT**

who were among the first settlers in the Tuckerman area, long before Tuckerman was dreamed of or the Iron Mountain Railroad was built.

John E. Parrott, following the completion of the railroad, operated a store at Sorrel Top, where the railroad section house was located. The place is now known as Crow's Crossing. He was the father of:

Joe T. Parrott (deceased)  
of Conway

Jessie L. Parrott

J. Edgar Parrott

J. Alfred Parrott

of Tuckerman

J. Bryan Parrott

Dewey R. Parrott

of Newport



## NEWPORT AIRFIELD

Newport not only gave of its man-power during World War II, but the Home Folks rented rooms, manned a USO, and gave of their time and hospitality to welcome the two branches of the Armed Forces stationed at the Newport Airbase.

Newport and Jackson County citizens felt and saw the actual preparations for war through the training at the Airbase. The U. S. Government constructed the Newport Airbase during the summer and fall of 1942. The Airfield was activated Nov. 1, 1942. The order of activation was read by Col. Daniel A. Cooper, first post commander, while the Newport High School Band played the Stars & Stripes.

The field was complete in every detail with all training facilities for cadets, as well as recreational and religious buildings. Four commanders of the base were stationed here.

The Army Air Force evacuated the Base July 1, 1944 and the Marine Corps took over for the duration of the life of the Base.

The Newport Airbase is still serving the purpose of flying training, and providing locations for jobs, thus providing revenue for the economy of Jackson County. Two commercial hangers are located there and seven manufacturing plants, which the Chamber of Commerce has brought into the area after seeing the need for more jobs, with the condensing of farm lands into large land holdings and mechanization.

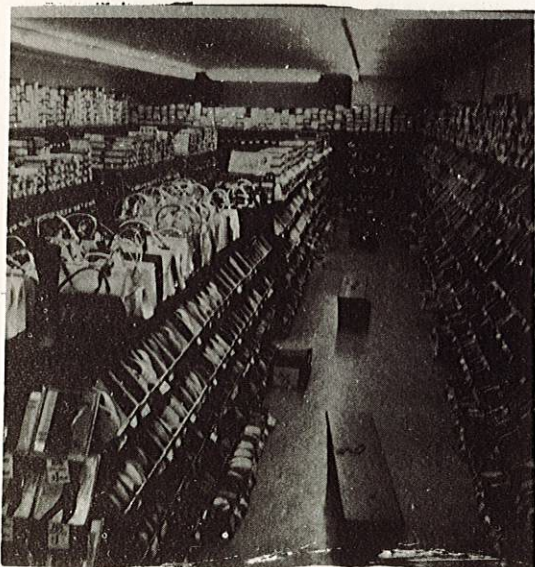
One of Newport's citizens and businessmen, then Captain Cullus Walker, served as operations Officer during the War at the Base.

## TUCKERMAN IMPLEMENT CO., INC,

Tuckerman, Arkansas

John Hancock

Jim Thomas



### SAMPLE SHOE STORE

Dorothy and Jennings Stewart

In Memory of

WILLIAM FRANKLIN MURPHY

born August 29, 1865

Oakland, Mississippi

died December 22, 1942

Tuckerman, Arkansas

landed at Jacksonport

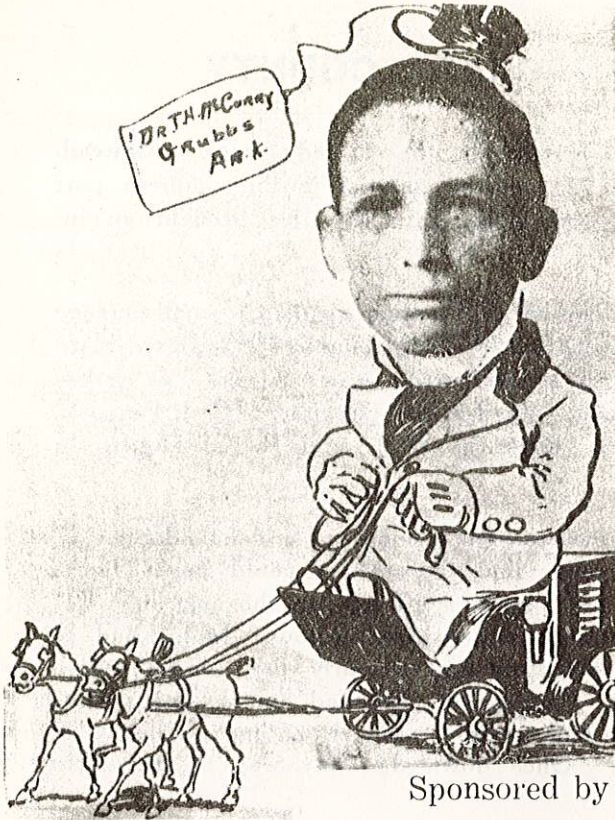
summer 1868

on steamer "The Tempest"

Living Survivors:

S. L. Murphy; J. M. Murphy; Mrs. Anna M. Bailey; William Austin Murphy, Mrs. Virgie M. Fortenberry, Mrs. Thelma M. Caughron, all of Tuckerman, Arkansas





### DR. J. H. M'CURRY

Dr. J. H. McCurry was born in Memphis, Tenn., Nov. 21, 1874. Graduating from the "Hospital Medical School" in 1897, he first practiced in Grubbs, Ark., and married Bertha Barber. Since 1924 he has ministered to the small town of Cash, Ark. He is one of the old-time country doctors, riding out day and night in his buggy, then his car, wherever called.

The first "Golden T" given by the University of Tennessee Medical School to its Alumni was awarded to him.

His office is one room: Reception room, drug store, medical library and examination room all in one. This is a scene fast disappearing from the American image. Too much credit cannot be given to those "family doctors" who were friends as well to three of four generations of the same families.

Sponsored by **A FRIEND OF DR. M'CURRY**



Sponsored by **GRUBBS SPECIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**



## RICE INDUSTRY IN JACKSON COUNTY

Arkansas plants one fourth of the rice acreage in the United States. Although Jackson County did not start growing rice as soon as counties in the southern part of the state, it has rapidly increased its production. In 1964 rice brought an income of \$3,660,000 to the county.

In 1910 Ferdinand Toney persuaded Thomas B. Fleming to plant a small acreage of rice. A. J. Geotz planted his first rice just east of Tuckerman in 1912. David Hare gave it a try in 1915. But rice farming on a commercial scale did not get underway until years later. Slowly other producers joined in the experiment: C. J. Peacock, in 1929, W. A. McCartney in 1931, F. L. Penix in 1931, and R. G. Holden in 1933.

Reasons why farmers were slow to go into rice production are understandable. In the first place, the price fluctuated so radically, that the grower could never figure his return. One day the market price could be .93 per hundred wt., the next day 1.8, or the next day valueless. Cultivation itself was slow and tedious. Mules had to pull a levee pusher, the matured crop was harvested by an early day binder pulled by six mules. The "bull wheel" of the binder was mounted on a sled. They were equipped with a six-foot or a three-foot cutter, either used depending on the crop. The mules often became mired in the mud. Once down the only way to free them was to take a shovel and dig them out.

Neighboring farmers chipped in and helped each other haul their bundles to the thrasher. The separated rice was stacked and then the farmer had to find a buyer.

In 1941 the price of rice took a turn for the better to 3.01 and in 1961 averaged 5.40. Rice was allotted in the 1940's and the acreage remained about the same until two years ago. In 1962 the allotment for Jackson County was 18,220 acres. But 20,000 acres were allotted for the 1964 crop.

Rice farming today is done entirely by machinery. Big tractors build the levees, planting is often done by plane, and big combines and special pieces of equipment can harvest a huge field in one day. But it is still expensive and means fighting mud and mosquitoes. Producing and processing rice is a story of hard work, determination, and progress.

There are five rice driers in the county and two rice mills process and package rice. Their finished product goes directly to the consumer market.

This history is from an article written by Jeff Ellis, Jr.

**NEWPORT RICE MILL**

Newport, Arkansas

**JACKSON COUNTY  
RICE DRIER, INC.**

Newport, Arkansas



## W. A. BILLINGSLEY MEMORIAL LIBRARY



The first Library was located in the Crypt of St. Paul's Episcopal Church. Opened to the public in April 1935 with a collection of one hundred books. Rev. W. T. Holt was instrumental in organizing the Library which at that time was known as "NEWPORT PUBLIC LIBRARY". Moved to the Court House in 1939 through the courtesy of Judge L. L. Mack. Became a County Library in 1942 when Judge J. Fred Ball, co-operating with the Library Board met requirements of Arkansas Library Commission by furnishing quarters and salary of librarian.

In 1950, Judge Joe G. Armstrong obtained lease on ground where the present Library stands. This building was given as a memorial to W. A. Billingsley by Mrs. Billingsley. It is now known as "W. A. BILLINGSLEY MEMORIAL LIBRARY." Mrs. Conrad (Jessie) Bach has served as librarian during these years.

*Compliments of*

**MACK BROTHERS, INC.**

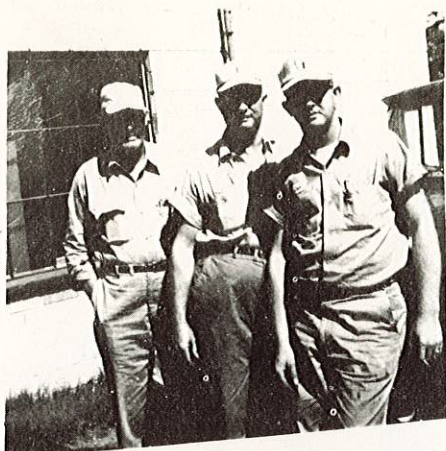
Macks, Arkansas

*Compliments of*

**PURDY'S FLOWER SHOP**

Newport





### **BERT CLOUD & SONS SERVICE STATION**

Grubbs, Arkansas

Some of the earliest families to settle near and to form the town of Tupelo before the Civil War were the McCoys, Campbells, Captain Price of the Confederate army, Colliers, and the Jones family. Others coming in later were Simmons, Taylors, Gardners, and Hardins.

In 1884 the Brinkley & Batesville railroad was built from Brinkley to Tupelo and stopped there because of the lack of funds. The passenger train known as "Old Jude" was turned each day on a "Y", and made the return trip.

Mr. Bryant W. Jones, Sr. gave the two blocks of land in the town for the railroad turntable.

The Collier family built and operated the first gin in Tupelo. One of the first Postmasters was Henry Johnston, who was also Depot Agent.

Tupelo was incorporated Nov. 28, 1904.

Sponsored by

**A. L. JONES & SON**

Tupelo, Arkansas

Lee Jones

Oscar Jones



Old Church



New Church

### **GRUBBS CHURCH OF CHRIST**

Grubbs, Arkansas





## MOBLEY CONSTRUCTION COMPANY

Newport, Arkansas

In 1931, Bryce Mobley bought property for the first location of the business on White River, at Newport, from Mr. Sol Heineman, later adding more river frontage

D. H. Atkinson first assisted Mr. Mobley in running the Newport plant. In 1946, Mr. and Brooks Brown, son-in-law and daughter of Bryce Mobley made their home in Newport, and Mr. Brown has managed the plant since that time.

The Newport plant serves Jackson, Poinsett, White, Woodruff, Monroe, and parts of Lawrence and Independence Counties with sand, gravel and cement for all types of building purposes.



**DAVID'S GARAGE**

David Ellington, Proprietor  
Tuckerman, Arkansas

**FARM BUREAU**

Designed for Farmers  
Joe Harris, Agent      Newport

**JACKSON COUNTY SCHOOLS**

In the very early days in the county, either parents or some educated person taught the "Three R's" and perhaps a little history in their homes. There is no record of a school building at Litchfield, the earliest community in the county in the 1830's. There is a report of a school at Elizabeth some years later, but it was probably conducted in a private home, as were the first schools at Jacksonport and Grand Glaize.

The little log school houses in the country appeared during the 1850's. These country school teachers were paid a small amount from county script. As early as 1854, provision was made by the state for establishment and maintenance of "Common (public) schools," chiefly by sale of section no. 16, in each township. The teacher lived a part of the time with each family during the school term, usually the four winter months.

Parents, who were able, sent their children to established boarding schools in Memphis or some other place, for high school-level education.

It was not until after the Civil War that a greater effort was made for more public schools, under the leadership of Franklin Doswell, a Jacksonport attorney. The Doswell School at Auvergne was one of the first good public schools. Soon a white wooden school was built at Jacksonport, one for all grades, one teacher for all subjects. The Auvergne Academy and the Doswell Institute (in Newport) were both supported by private tuition.

Today the educational picture gives a vastly different story. In place of the 40-odd small schools around the county, consolidated school districts offer better facilities and a wider range of subjects.

The schools at Beedeville, Lynn Sharp, Supt., and Grubbs, Rudolph Amann, Supt., have A-rating elementary and B-rating high schools. Schools at Swifton, Hershell R. Lee, Supt., Tuckerman, John Arnold, Supt., and Newport Special School District, John W. Mullins, Supt., all have A-ratings in both elementary and high school. These schools are accredited by the North Central Association of Secondary Schools and Colleges and the Arkansas State Department of Education. They offer standard subjects through 12 grades and have vocational and athletic programs. 5,529 pupils were enrolled in the county in 1965. The Newport Special School District is one of the largest consolidated districts in Arkansas. It covers an area of 284 square miles, has an enrollment of 3,440 students, is staffed by 123 teachers, operates 26 school busses, and has seven attendance centers. The seven attendance centers are: the Albright Elementary School, the Castleberry Elementary School, the Rutherford School, the W. F. Branch Elementary and High School, the Blackville Elementary School, the Newport Junior High School and the Newport Senior High School.

A new Music Building, Language Arts Addition, and Classroom addition were completed in September of 1964 to compliment the 106 classrooms, 3 gymnasiums, 6 libraries, 6 cafeterias, 4 auxillary buildings, and 1 auditorium that represents an educational investment of Three Million Dollars.

Compliments of  
**HARRY D. STEPHENS**

Compliments of  
**HENDERSON'S MARKET**  
Tuckerman, Arkansas



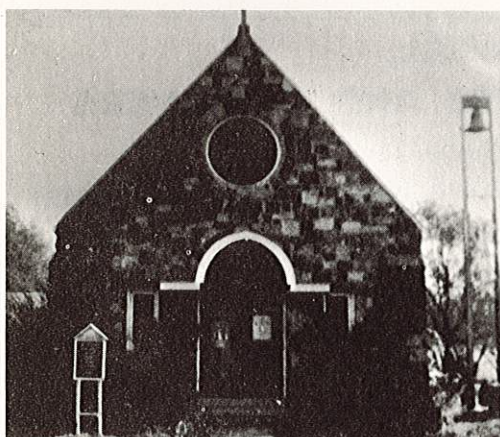
## Architecture of Newport Churches is Varied and Beautiful



**St. Paul's Episcopal Church**



**First Presbyterian Church**



**St. Cecilia's Catholic Church**



**First Baptist Church**



**First Methodist Church**



**Church of Christ**



## Henderson Murphy

Henderson Murphy moved to Arkansas, near Elgin, in 1900. In 1904 he moved to the Johnstown community, and bought and sold land in that area for the next 12 years. In 1916, he built a store, which still stands on old Highway 14, less than ten miles east of Newport. He moved there with his family in 1917.

From 1926-30, Mr. Murphy had the International Harvester dealership at his store. A building nearby was used to house the trucks, tractors, and heavy equipment. This is believed to be the first International dealership in the county. He also maintained the first airplane landing strip in the county. Many early barnstorming pilots used this strip for stunt flying and passenger rides.

One of the first to plant rice on his land in 1934, Mr. Murphy was a progressive and good farmer.

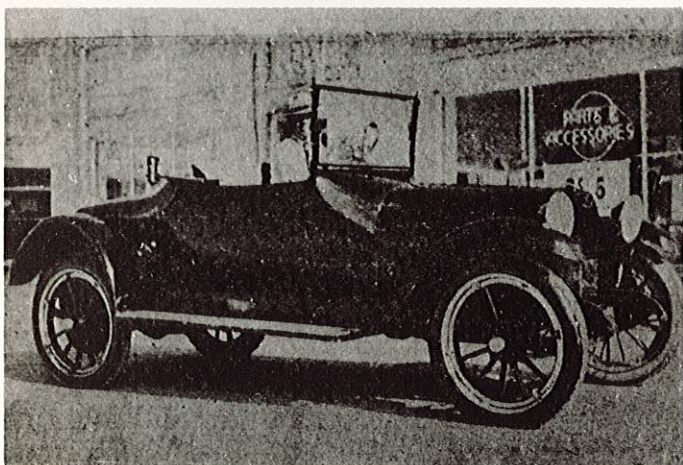
Mr. and Mrs. Murphy had four children, Mrs. Dovie Miller, Lloyd Murphy, Opal Murphy, and James Wesley Murphy. Mrs. Homer Dunn was raised by the Murphys. Mrs. Murphy died in 1935.

"Murphy's Corner" they call the place where the store stands, and over the 48 years since its construction, the frame building has borne up remarkably well. It became a landmark in the county, and a gathering place for all the country round about. Henderson Murphy died in November, 1959, at the age of 89, leaving behind many interesting stories that he told of his early experiences in Jackson County.

## MILLER-NEWELL, CONSULTING ENGINEERS AND DESIGNERS

Albert Miller  
Robert Newell

Phone Ja 3-4571  
Brosh Bldg., Newport, Arkansas



Luther Julian, manager of the TERRELL-JULIAN MOTOR CO., in 1951, is seated in a 1914 model Studebaker roadster.

**RHEA AUTO SALES**  
Tuckerman, Arkansas

## WHITE RIVER CATFISH

White River Catfish is famous all over the United States as a prime fresh water delicacy. We invite you to come and catch them fresh in Jackson County.

## FARM & RANCH SPORTING GOODS STORE

Newport, Ark.





## Opening of J. C. Penney Co.

Left to right: Everett Sarter, first manager; Mayor H. O. Walker; next two, Penney executives; W. A. Billingsley;



## Walnut Street School

Built in 1912, this building probably has a more cherished place in the memories of people living today, in Newport, than any other school. Mr. Patterson, waving his pince-nez in time to "Arkansas, Arkansas, 'tis the name, dear -"; the N.E.A.C.A. contests for Declamation, Reading, Violin (with Hoxie always winning the cup), Trios, Solos (Robert Wise's glorious baritone winning for Newport); home talent plays; elementary grade school plays, with little ten year-olds inevitably wearing white cotton wigs as George Washington or long white beards for Santa Claus and Uncle Sam; Mr. Mann, so beloved by all of us; Mrs. Claudia Taylor, sweet and understanding principle the last years before the school was closed.

Consolidation of County schools ended the small classes, newer schools were built, the Walnut Street School is no more. But the school children who filled its rooms for half a century will never forget it.

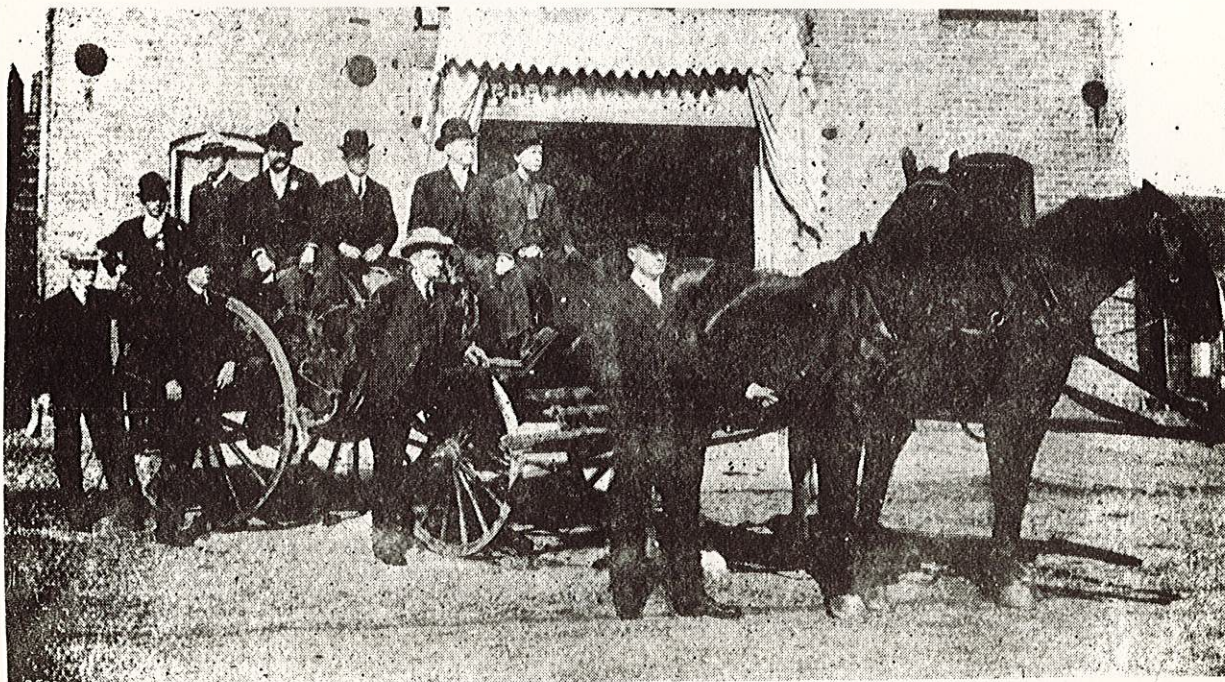


## STEEL AND WOODEN BRIDGE OVER NEWPORT LAKE



Before the "Dump" divided Newport Lake in two parts, boating parties had quite a long span on the natural crescent of the lake to take a ride "of a Sunday afternoon."

## NEWPORT FIRE DEPARTMENT OF 1905



J. R. Mayhan, Chief; W. H. Carouthers, First Assistant; Culver Knoles, Second Assistant; Ralph Richardson, Secretary. Volunteers; James Porter, J. E. Hoofman, W. C. Farmer, Duncan Dewberry, W. C. Ellis and Larry Young. In the background is the Newport City Hall.



## THE CITY OF NEWPORT

### MAYORS OF NEWPORT

1876-1879—A. W. Horton  
 1879-1882—J. F. Staley  
 1882-1885—W. H. Bogart  
 1885-1889—J. E. Williams  
 1889-1890—R. M. Davis  
 1890-1891—Franklin Doswell  
 1891-1894—T. T. Ward  
 1894-1898—J. P. Foster  
 1898-1900—T. J. Watson  
 1900-1906—J. W. Grubbs  
 1906-1910—W. R. Thompson  
 1910-1912—Judge E. L. Boyce  
 1912-1914—J. P. Paul  
 1914-1918—Anton T. Hubley  
 1918-1918—Dr. Elbert Watson  
 1918-1924—C. M. Erwin  
 1924-1928—T. J. Gregg  
 1928-1932—P. H. Van Dyke  
 1932-1936—J. E. Williams  
 1936-1944—Dr. H. O. Walker  
 1944-1946—R. P. McCuiston  
 1946-1952—Dr. H. O. Walker  
 1952-1960—J. N. Hout  
 1960-1962—Bill Duncan  
 1962-1963—T. J. Walden  
 1964-1966—Dr. Oras Dotson

The first 17 Mayors received no direct Salary.

Election year changed to the odd years to cause installation of office in even years, during years of 1936-1944.

Incorporated October 7, 1875.  
 A. W. Horton, First Mayor  
 J. E. Williams, First Recorder

Government of City changed to City Management Form, election of 7 Directors July 30, 1963.

### FIRST CITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Harry Minton  
 Dr. Jabez Jackson  
 Scott Elphingstone  
 Dr. Oras Dotson  
 Ed Holt  
 S. L. Burkett  
 Bob Wilkinson

### CITY MANAGER

|              |      |
|--------------|------|
| Donald Brown | 1964 |
| Gale Lawley  | 1965 |

This page sponsored by: City of Newport Board of Directors

Harry Minton  
 Dr. Jabez Jackson  
 Scott Elphingstone

Ed Holt  
 Dene Hook  
 Loyd Fullenwider

Mayor Oras Dotson

Vaughan Jackson, City Clerk

Kaneaster Hodges, City Attorney



## INDUSTRY IN NEWPORT

The City of Newport has boasted many manufacturers through the years. Lumber and the manufacture of wooden products have been popular in this area. In the year 1906 manufacturers of lumber were listed: B. F. Hogans, W. G. Miles, V. E. Pierson, C. L. Shoffner, and the Volkmer Lumber Co. It was the V. O. Jones Lumber Co. where the fire started in 1926, which caused so much havoc in Newport.

Up until 1956, from approximately 1935, the Jack Roberts Mill made wooden handles of all types. It was not until 1961 that the Townsend Brothers of Stuttgart brought a lumber company into Newport, which now employs 50 persons. The Diamond Bottling Works for soft drinks flourished in Newport from 1890 to 1909, and was operated by a Tupelo citizen, A. C. Collier. They made their own glass bottles.

In 1935 Sol Heinemann bought a small, few-month-old button operation from a Black Rock owner, and thus began the second flourishing button cutting manufacturer. The Chalmers Company, which operated until 1940, began the first in 1920. Mr. Heinemann's plant was sold in 1944 to the Burlington Button Company of Davenport, Iowa, and this was in operation until 1946, when plastics began replacing shell buttons. Ralph Sink operated several home button shops until 1947. Pond and Decker Manufacturing Company, a stave factory, operated during the years of 1904-1908. The Newport Foundry and Machine Shops was another manufacturer from 1894 to 1908 or later. The R. C. Horton Planing Mill was in full force in 1906-1908.

During the latter part of World War II and immediately following, the leaders of the Chamber of Commerce saw the need for more jobs in Jackson County, because farming interests were graduating to large land holdings and mechanization. Thus Newport and the Chamber of Commerce began an all-out drive for industry and the jobs it could provide. At the present time, Newport boasts 29 manufacturers:

Victor Metal Products Corporation  
Revere Copper and Brass  
Southern Cotton Oil Division, Hunt  
Foods and Industries, Inc.

Brown Jordan Corporation  
American Lantern Corporation  
Nicholson Welding and Machine Co.  
Evans Box Factory  
Townsend Lumber Company  
Kickerinos, Inc.  
Palace Homes Corporation  
Lambert Seed Company  
Associated Wood Products Company  
Mobley Sand and Gravel Company  
Newport Rice Mill  
Smith Concrete Products Company  
Dr. Pepper Bottling Co.  
Newport Independent  
Home Ice Company  
Farmers Supply and Grain Company  
Helena Chemical Company  
Cooley Sheet Metal Company  
Raney's Greenhouses  
Gamble Furniture Company  
Newport Neon Sign Company  
H & S Manufacturing Company  
Triple M Fertilizer Company  
Liquid Fertilizer Company  
George Hopps Company  
Middleton Packing Company

Aluminum Tubes, Cans, Plastics  
Aluminum Foil, Gift Wrap  
Cotton, Soybean Oil

Aluminum, Wrought Iron Furniture  
Aluminum, Wrought Iron Fixtures  
Farm Implements, Tanks, Water Gates  
Cardboard Boxes and Packing Materials  
Hardwood Lumber  
Women's Cold Weather Boots  
Mobile Homes  
Cotton Seed  
Wooden Boxes, Crates  
Sand, Gravel, Ready-Mix Concrete  
Rice  
Concrete Products  
Soft Drinks  
News Print  
Ice  
Grains  
Agriculture Chemicals  
Metal Products  
Flowers  
Hand Made Furniture  
Metal and Wooden Signs  
Fishing Yo-Yos  
Agriculture Fertilizer  
Agriculture Fertilizer  
Wall Plaques  
Meats



## NEIGHBORS AUTO PARTS

Evinrude Boats and Motors

Newport, Arkansas



## RECREATION IN JACKSON COUNTY

Jackson County is blessed with an abundance of natural recreational and low cost vacation areas. White River, Black River, and 20 lakes provide Boating, Fishing, Swimming and other water sports within easy access from the highways.

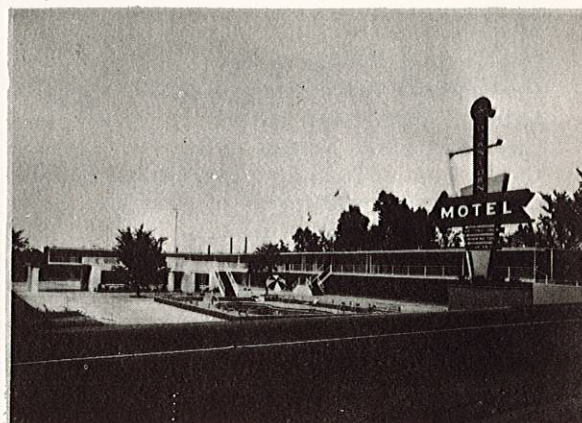
The city of Newport has a 40 acre park, two swimming pools, tennis courts, athletic stadium, and Little League Baseball, Saddle, Music, Civic Clubs, and a County Club with Golf Course.

Visitors can find accommodation at six hotels and motels with nearby, convenient modern restaurants.



### KELLY'S GRILL

Malcolm Avenue Newport, Ark.



### DOWN TOWN MOTEL

301 Malcolm Newport, Ark.



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sub—historical article or picture

sp—sponsor or advertiser

mem—memorial

Tuckm—Tuckerman

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