

PHILLIPS COUNTY  
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INDIANA TROOPS AT HELENA: PART VI

The 11th Indiana Infantry Regiment was organized at Indianapolis in August, 1861. It had seen action at Forts Henry and Donelson in Tennessee, at Shiloh, and at Corinth, Mississippi, before being sent to Memphis. It was ordered to leave Memphis for Helena in late July, 1862, and stayed here until April, 1863. Sylvester C. Bishop was at Helena with the 11th Indiana during that entire period. These letters were written to his mother, Mrs. Jane E. Montgomery, at Putnamville and Brazil, Indiana. They are used here by permission of the Indiana Historical Society Library at Indianapolis.

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Helena, Arkansas. March 18, 1862.

Dear Mother,

Your last of March 7th is received and taking former letters for a precedent made a very quick trip. I need not say that it finds me in my usual good health and spirits.

This has been quite a busy week so far we have company drill all forenoon and brigade all afternoon. We are having very pretty weather here, all the objections its pretty hot to drill. The whole bottom country here is over flowed and we have to go a mile and a half to find drill grounds. Genl Gorman drills our brigade and Colonel McGinnes since his   ?   takes charge of another.

We had quite an exciting time here last Sabbath and for a while quite serious. It was occasioned by some troops who were on the boats at the landing. They had come down from Memphis the night before and were on their way for points down the river.

All regts have some bad and unruly men but from their proceedings I think they had an excess. Anyway they were numerous enough to break the guards on the boat and because the Provosts Guards tried to stop them and send them to the boats,



they made battle a plenty routing the guards using pistols, brickbats, wood and any thing they could get their hands on.

The guards were ordered to fire on them frequently but they were so badly scared but one man obeyed the command shooting one of the rioters through the legs.

Our camp is over a mile from where the riot occurred and Genl Gorman sent for our regt to come and put it down, and ten minutes from the time of receiving the order we were there. We went double quick the whole way. The rioters saw us coming and made for the boats in a hurry. The boats immediately shoved off with their riotous crew.

Genl Gorman made our regt a short speech thanking us for the prompt manner in which obeyed his call. I did not like his speech, there was too much flattery in it. No General should suffer himself to make a pet of one certain regt and tell every other regt so tis calculated to create a bad feeling among regts. We care not how much Gorman thinks of us but should keep it to himself. He said that he would rather be a private in our regt than an officer in most any other regt he knew, that we were soldiers from the crown of our head to the soles of our feet. A resident of Indiana for more than twenty years himself, he honored us as a fit representative of that noble State. He closed with good many other things equally nice.

I subscribed for the Mayflower in time for the next to commence the first of February but for some reason the last was not sent soon enough. Some of our boys take the Myaflower and you may do what you please with the extra number. Willie must learn        ? and very fast. I did not suppose he could hardly read the first reader yet. Write soon.

S.C. Bishop

Helena, Arkansas. March 22, 1863.

Dear Mother,

Being in receipt of a letter yesterday which does not belong to me I have thought it proper to write and let you know immediately, if you do not already know the fact this will tell you. A letter that was intended for Will Moore has been directed to me.

As you wanted Bill to write immediately I am afraid this will not reach you in time to do any good provided you are not already appraised of your (seems to skip a page). I am sorry that it has happened so far I fear it will cause you a great deal of trouble. I hope that Nils may succeed in fixing up things at Newburg. I will send the letter back to you. Write soon to your affectionate Son.

S.C. Bishop

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Helena, Arkansas. March 26, 1863.

Dear Mother,

Your letter of March 15th was rec'd last Tuesday but as I had just written a day or two before I thought I had better wait a few days before writing again.

The reason for my writing the first of the week was to send back a letter which was intended for Bill Moore but through some mistake came to me. I was somewhat puzzled when first I commenced reading the letter the reading sounded so strange I was at loss what it meant till a close investigation proved who it was intended for.

My health is still good in fact as a regt we have been highly famed with good health. We have the advantage of a great many Regts. We have moved South by degrees getting regularly acclimated



without much sickness. Kidwell one of our mess was rather unfortunate today- he was detached to chop wood and while doing so cut his leg pretty severely. This is the second case in our company this spring one of our Sergeants cut his foot a few weeks ago got a furlough and is at home.

I don't think Kidwell will be so fortunate if he should be he wouldn't much regret cutting his leg. I shall try some of the salve you sent me if he does not prefer risking the Doctor.

Some of our boys who went home not long since have returned and five more will now have an opportunity to go home. Lieutenant Wood says that the married men will have the preference this time.

L Pause says he thinks we will all have a chance to go home when our time comes. If this is the case I may get a furlough this summer.

We have had some very nice days in the last week. How long we will have nice weather tis hard to tell. The climate is very changeable. It rains here very often this time of year and with such vehemence that our hard rains at the North are very feeble in comparison.

About two thirds of Helena is at present entirely covered with water and those who still live in their houses have to run about in skiffs. Little boys can be frequently seen in their doors trying their luck fishing. I don't suppose they are very successful. Helena is a curious town. The highest part of the town is near the river bank close to levee. The center of the town is built on low swampy ground and I suppose overflows every year. I am thinking their will be a great deal of sickness in town when the water subsides.

I did not think what little I had to write required large paper; tis the same here every day. Their is hardly anything that occurs that would make a letter interesting. I have everything I need at present so you need not give yourself any trouble. It costs so such to send things from home

that it is hardly profitable me receiving two months pay today and if this reaches you thirty dollars will be enclosed within. Mother I do not see why you think it hard to receive the money I send. What else should I do with it. Tis my duty to help you all I can. All the pleasure I have in getting money is to know that it will do good at home. I hope the poor who are suffering in the North may soon be relieved by the termination of this war.

Write soon  
S.C. Bishop  
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Helena, Arkansas. April 4, 1863.

Dear Mother,

Your letter of the 22nd was rece'vd a couple of days ago and finds me well in the exception of a light cold. I am glad to hear that you and Willie are still well.

Professor Hiblen and Will Kerchival got back yesterday. They both look considerably improved. I was talking with Kerck last night, he says that he saw you while he was at P\_\_\_ and that you are all getting along very well.

I told you in my last about the prospect of furlough this summer. Our calculations are now all spoiled. Twenty of our boys were on the boat last thursday to go home but Genl Prentiss immediately ordered them off. The most of them came back some few of them hid in the hull of the boat and are gone up to Memphis. Tis quite likely they will be overhauled their and sent back. Their passes are not good they need Prentiss's and Gorman's name on them.

Prentiss' and Hovey's actions have created a great deal of ill feeling among the soldiers. They are the cause of the boys not getting to go



home. Genl McGinnes and Hovey had quite a quarrel. McGinnes told Hovey that he did not think that he or any other Genl here had any right to interfere as their was an order from the War department to grant short furloughs.

Prentiss and Hovey say that they have not secured the order here yet and are not at liberty to act upon it till they get it.

Let them philosophize as much as they please. They will be remembered here after Genl McGinnes has showed himself to be the Soldiers friend. Our Regt thinks more of him than ever. Hovey gave his old Regt particular fits, he told them that if anymore furloughs were sent to him he would reduce every officer to the ranks.

We are having nice weather here at present. We have brigade drill three days out of a week. Genl McGinnis believes in plenty of drilling and plenty of good rations for his men.

I had my picture taken this week. I am going to send it to Sis as soon as I can. get a pass down town. Their are so many running to town tis pretty hard to get a pass now.

Tomorrow is Easter and the boys are getting a lot of eggs. They have to pay the ? little sum of 35 cts per dozen or \$26.00 per barrel, buter is 30cts per pound, everything here is very dear and scarce at that.

I have not consumed all the contents of the box yet. We will make pies out of the fruit, the peaches and blackberries were excellent. The other box mostly contained dried beef and bologna sausage and a half dozen boxes of mustard. The owner of the boxes is a Dutchman and the contents of the box were put up to suit a dutchman. He goes a good deal on mustard, Sour Kraut and the like.

As I have written about all I know I had better close,

Write soon to your affectionate son,  
S.C. Bishop

BIOGRAPHICAL AND HISTORICAL RECORD OF  
PUTNAM COUNTY, INDIANA (1887) pp 454-5.

"Sketch of Sylvester C. Bishop, dealer in drugs, groceries, etc, Warren Township; born in St. Louis County, Missouri, December 4, 1841, son of Asa J. and Jane E. (Mann) Bishop. Father died in Illinois in 1849; mother moved to Putnamville; married William Montgomery, lived in Clay County until his death; returned to Putnamville. Sylvester received common school education; lived on a farm; enlisted Co. F, 11th Reg't., 8-3-61; Wounded at Champion Hill, discharged when his term of enlistment ended; returned home. On 6-30-68 married Bell S. Farrow; 4 children; 1 died in infancy."

WEIK'S HISTORY OF PUTNAM COUNTY, INDIANA (1910).

A list of postmasters for Putnamville shows that S.C. Bishop was appointed postmaster there at three different times: November 13, 1866; March 31- 1869; January 13, 1879.

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-Conclusion of S.C. Bishop letters-

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#### BOOK REVIEW

"MEMPHIS MEMOIRS" : By Paul R. Coppock. (Memphis State University Press, 1980. Pp 264, illustrations and index. \$14.95.)

This is the second book Paul Coppock had published based on his weekly historical articles, MID-SOUTH MEMOIRS, in the Commercial Appeal. The first book was named MEMPHIS SKETCHES, and was published in 1976.

To us in the Mid-South, the book title MEMPHIS MEMOIRS is a misnomer, because the articles encompass a much wider geographical area than Memphis; and those that are about Memphis only, bring many fond memories to most of us who have lived within 100 or so miles of there.

This collection includes one named SWEET SUMMER NIGHTS, about the Memphis Open Air Theater and features a picture of our own Frances Greer and write up of her appearances there as the star in 1940 of "Naughty Marietta" which brought in the largest crowd the MOAT ever had. Then in 1948 the Greer "Rio Rita" attracted the biggest week of the MOAT record, 18,715.

Another entitled A LITTLE DANDY: was about Thomas Carmichael Hindman who was a Mississippi legislator, who moved to Helena, went to congress, and briefly commanded all Rebel forces west of the Mississippi River.

For Arkansas at large, there is a story about Archibald Yell, and others concerning the early history of Eastern Arkansas, which is so closely related to the happenings at Memphis and along the river.

Paul Coppock has performed a valuable service to historians of the area, by putting together in one volume, stories of interest to all.

It is a book that you should have in your library, it is not dated and you will enjoy rereading in years to come.

T.E. TAPPAN

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HELENA WORLD

Oct. 5, 1898

Henry Cady, the well-known colored merchant and farmer, has built a 25 room hotel at his place 7 miles west of Helena. Henry says both white and colored people from the Indian Bay and Crocketts Bluff neighborhoods have been after him to fix comfortable quarters for them. They are just about able, by making an early start, to reach his place by night. He has quarters for both white and colored people and says he enjoys a lucrative patronage. Henry's enterprise is to be commended.

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THREE IMPORTANT BLACK LEADERS  
IN PHILLIPS COUNTY HISTORY

Presented by Tom W. Dillard of Little Rock  
before the Arkansas Historical Association  
meeting in Helena, Arkansas, April 24, 1976

When most Arkansas historians think about Negro history in Phillips County, the subject of the Elaine Riot of 1919 instantly comes to mind. And while this tragic riot was of great historical importance, it tends to overshadow all other aspects of black history in this area. This is indeed a tragic fact.

Perhaps no county in the state has witnessed more Negro history than Phillips. This county was the home of the first institution for higher learning for blacks, the Southland College, a Quaker school established during the Civil War: it spawned scores of black politicians, especially during Reconstruction. The county was an important Negro religious center, having two of the oldest Baptist churches in the state. And it was a center for black agricultural activity.

I want to take the next few minutes to survey the lives of three men who represent the diversity and complexity of black history in Phillips County. I will begin by taking a look at the career of William H. Grey, who made his mark in politics and government. Then we will switch to J.N. Donohoo, a man of great political ability, but also a businessman of some importance. Finally, I will conclude with a look at E.C. Morris, who was a politician and businessman like both Grey and Donohoo. But more importantly, Morris was one of the most significant Negro religious leaders in American history.

Before getting into this subject any further, I guess I should note that any comparative study of

this nature by necessity must be quite arbitrary in selecting subject matter. For example, I could have selected to study H.B. Robinson, the Rev. James T. White, Abraham Miller, D.W. Ellison, or Tony Grisom. Each of these men need historical analysis, as do several black institutions in the area.

WILLIAM H. GREY

William H. Grey is one of the most fascinating black personalities in Arkansas history. And of the people I will mention today, he is the only one to have received anything like the historical study he deserves.

Like so many of the blacks who came to Arkansas during the Civil War, Grey had never been a slave. He was born in Washington, D. C. in December, 1829. He attended what was known in those days as a "pay school," in Washington. The length of his stay in school is unknown, however, it was his later employment as a servant for Congressman Henry A. Wise of Virginia that opened new avenues to him. Sources indicate that Wise took his young black servant along with him into the House chamber. Grey thereby got his first introduction to politics.

When Grey was about 13 years of age his family moved to Pittsburg, and from there to Cincinnati, Ohio. Upon the death of his parents during a cholera epidemic in 1852, Grey moved to St. Louis, where he found work as a cook on steamboats plying the Mississippi, Ohio, and Missouri Rivers. In 1854, when Grey was 24, he married Miss Henrietta Winslow, a girl of fifteen. Several sources indicate that during this period Grey became a Methodist minister.

In 1865 Grey moved to Helena where he and his in-laws opened a grocery and bakery. No sooner had he arrived than Grey found himself thrown into the midst of Reconstruction politics. With a voter registration that was heavily black, Phillips County was an ideal breeding ground for the new Negro



politicians. His first political campaign was for the 1868 Reconstruction Constitutional Convention. The campaign was a success and Grey soon made a name for himself as the most articulate spokesman for the freedmen. His activities in the convention have been analyzed quite thoroughly, and I shall not get into that aspect of his political career.

However, one of his political activities has been pretty well overlooked by historians. When William H. Grey seconded the nomination of President U. S. Grant at the 1872 Republican National Convention, he became the first Afro-American to address a national nominating convention.

Grey's other political activities are as varied as they are extensive. In 1868 he was elected not only to the Constitutional Convention, but also to the state legislature and as a Republican presidential elector. From 1872 to 1874 he served as Commissioner of Immigration and State Lands. In 1875 he was elected to the State Senate. Still later he served as Phillips County Clerk. His political career came to a tragic end in September 1878 when he was struck with paralysis. After ten more years of life as an invalid, Grey died at Helena in November 1888. He left a wife, eight children, and a very small estate.

#### J. N. DONOHOO

Jacob N. Donohoo, the subject of my second sketch, was very similar to Grey in many respects, especially in his deep interest in politics. But Donohoo was unlike Grey in one very important regard: Donahoo was a master businessman.

He was born a slave in Bradley County, Tenn. in 1854. After the Civil War his family moved to Knoxville, Tennessee, where he apparently secured a rudimentary education. Donohoo moved to Phillips County about 1872, settling at Marvell. In

February 1879, the 26 year old Donohoo married Miss Mollie E. Owens, aged 22. One of the many aspects of Donohoo's life that remains a mystery is the number of his children. Throughout his life, Donohoo was a member of the Society of Friends, and he attended the Quaker meetings at Southland. Like many blacks of his day, Donohoo was active in several fraternal groups, especially the Masons, which he served in several elective capacities.

In 1876, when only 22 years of age, Donohoo won election to the state legislature. He ran seven more times and won each campaign. His tenure of 16 years in the legislature was longer than any other Negro in state history. He did not run for re-election in 1892 since he was the Republican nominee in that year for State Land Commissioner. In the general election he was badly defeated, coming in third behind the successful Democratic nominee and the Populist candidate.

Although Donohoo could be unpredictable at times, he was usually a close political ally of Republican Party boss Powell Clayton. He was rewarded with several party and governmental posts.

With his defeat in 1892 campaign for State Land Commissionery, Donohoo had more time to contribute to his business interests. And these interests were many and varied. By the early 1890s he owned a 160 acre farm, several houses and lots, and a grocery store in Marvell. Despite all these business interests, he still found time to edit the HELENA PROGRESS, a weekly newspaper.

By November 1902, Donohoo had moved to Pine Bluff. In that month he established the Southwestern Investment, Trust and Banking Association, one of only three black-owned banks in Arkansas history. It was no accident that the bank was established in 1902, for around the turn of the century Negro America was swept with a black



capitalism crusade. Spurred on by the preachings of Booker. T. Washington, black entrepreneurs opened banks, marketing co-ops, cotton gins, and other business ventures all across the nation. A State Colored Men's Business League was established, an organization Donohoo served as vice president.

Despite Donohoo's enthusiasm for business, his bank was destined for failure. In June 1908, the bank was caught-up in the economic uncertainty caused by the Panic of 1907, and it went into receivership. One week later the only other black bank in the state, the Capitol City Savings Bank of Little Rock, shut its doors for the last time and Arkansas' experiment in black capitalism was judged a failure.

Donohoo's life after the failure of his bank is rather sketchy. Except for a few references to his activities in the Republican Party, he seems to have led a subdued life. He died on November 11, 1917. His grave, which is located in Magnolia Cemetery at Helena, is marked by a rather plain marker, an ironic ending for one of the most important black businessmen and politicians in Arkansas.

#### E. C. MORRIS

The last subject of this paper is the Reverend Elias Camp Morris. And in some respects he is the most fascinating of the three. Perhaps it is the diversity of his life that makes him so interesting. Morris beautifully illustrates the great trinity of forces that marked the black leadership class of the late nineteenth and early twentieth century.

Like William H. Grey, Morris had a keen interest in politics. And like Donohoo, Morris was a firm supporter of the black business ethos. Morris' third great interest, and the area in which he was a shining star, was religion.

E.C. Morris was born on May 7, 1855, in the hills of North Georgia near the little village of Spring Place. His parents were slaves who lived on separate farms. His father was a skilled craftsman who was also literate. Late in his life, Morris remembered that when his father came to visit on his twice weekly home-comings, he took time to teach his children to read and write.

Upon the liberation of his family by federal troops, young Elias was enrolled in school at Dalton, Georgia and later in Stevenson Institute, Alabama where his family moved in 1865. He later studied for a year at Nashville Institute in Tennessee. Needless to say, his formal education was very limited. Morris' parents died when he was fourteen and he was apprenticed to Robert Carver, a local shoemaker. After three years as an apprentice, Morris began his own small shoe repair business.

Life for a poorly educated black Alabama shoemaker in the 1870s must have presented more challenges than rewards. Of course Morris was only one of thousands in the same situation, and during the late 1870s swarms of Southern Negroes began a mass migration to the state of Kansas where they hoped to find their own "promised land." One of the "Exodusters," as they called themselves, was a 22 year old shoemaker named E.C. Morris.

Morris never made it to the promised land of Kansas. Why he decided to settle in Helena is unknown, but it can be assumed that he was greatly impressed with Arkansas. For many years after the Civil War this state was viewed by many Southern blacks as a haven from social and economic oppression. Emerging as it was from its primitive frontier isolation, Arkansas had a great labor shortage and black immigrants were eagerly welcomed. Indeed, Arkansas farmers and businessmen, especially



the railroad promoters, actively sought out black immigrants from the deep South. Some of the promotional literature even portrayed Arkansas as a new Africa, replete with a tropical climate, "where cocoanuts, oranges, lemons, and bananas grew."

When E.C. Morris stepped off the steamboat at the Helena docks he certainly found no banana trees, but he did find himself in an area that was a hotbed of black political activity. William H. Grey occupied the county clerk's office. H. B. Robinson was completing his second term as sheriff and J.N. Donohoo was serving his first in the state legislature. The young immigrant soon allied himself with the local Republican organization and by 1884 he was powerful enough to win a position as alternate delegate to the GOP national convention. Morris apparently never held public office, possibly due to his numerous commitments as a leading Baptist clergyman.

But these commitments did not preclude his working within his party. He summed up his philosophy on political activity late in life when he wrote: "I have never been with that class who holds that ministers of the Gospel should have nothing to do with politics; indeed, I believe that they should interest themselves in all public questions, and while not bidding for office, should exert their influence in favor of good men for public service."

Morris was not shy about exerting his influence, especially when it came to the numerous racially-inspired quarrels within the Republican party. Beginning around the turn of the century, Republican organizations throughout the South were wracked with racial brawls. When black Republicans counterattacked against those who wanted to segregate the party, E.C. Morris was in the forefront. By 1880 he was so dissatisfied with the GOP that

he became one of the first major blacks in the nation to urge the race to abandon the party of Lincoln. Until his death in 1922, Morris was still battling for the rights of black Republicans in Arkansas.

Like other subjects of this paper, Morris was something of a businessman, though not nearly so successful as J.N. Donohoo. Beginning life as a shoemaker, Morris soon had a double income when he became a minister in 1875. Gradually he bought land and rental property. His interest in real estate prompted him to help establish the Phillips County Land and Investment Company. By 1919 he was on the board of directors of the Mound Bayou Cotton Seed Oil Mill in Mississippi, owned mining stock, and had real property assessed at over \$10,000. He also owned a weekly newspaper. At his death in 1922, Morris' will shows that he also owned six paid-up life insurance policies, as well as stock in a Helena bank and a large national insurance company. Significantly, Morris' estate was unencumbered, excepting some bills he had assumed for Arkansas Baptist College.

It was altogether appropriate that Morris continued to support his denomination even after death. For it was the Negro Baptist denomination that provided the most consuming interest in his life.

Sources differ as to when he became a minister, however, it appears that he was granted a clerical license in 1875 while living in Alabama. Upon arriving in Helena he joined a local congregation, Centennial Baptist Church. He became the pastor the following year. One year later, in 1880, he was elected secretary of the Baptist State Convention. It might seem surprising that a twenty-five year old novice preacher could win such an important post after having been in the state



no more than three years. But these were the formative years for the freedmen churches, and that provided many opportunities for aggressive religious leaders.

After two years as secretary, he was elected president of the State Convention in 1882. He served in that position for 36 years. During his tenure as president of the State Convention, Morris established a denominational newspaper, the BAPTIST VANGUARD, which is, as far as I know, the longest continually published black newspaper in Arkansas history. In 1884 he helped establish a church college, Arkansas Baptist College at Little Rock, which he also served as president and later chairman of the board of trustees.

Before long Morris came to the attention of national Negro Baptist leaders and his career soon entered an even more flourishing phase. In 1895 he was elected president of the National Baptist Convention, a newly created organization which combined the three competing black Baptist conventions. He served as president from 1894 to 1921, a total of 27 years.

While president of the National Convention, Morris greatly broadened the scope of the organization. He pushed for the creation of a Young People's Union, A Women's Auxiliary, a retirement fund for former ministers, and, most importantly, a publishing house. As a culmination to his religious works, Morris helped foster cooperation between white and black Baptists.

Morris' support for racial ecumenicism within the Baptist denomination has escaped the attention of historians. The noted August Meier, in his book NEGRO THOUGHT IN AMERICA, has proposed that Morris actually favored the segregation of his denomination since it gave the Negro an opportunity to train leaders and remain independent of whites. This

interpretation undoubtedly contains a grain of truth, however, it overlooks the obvious fact that cooperation between black and white Baptists presented certain benefits for the Negroes, especially financial contributions. Wise businessman that he was, Morris would not have overlooked this important reason for racial cooperation.

A tireless worker, Morris did not retire as president of the National Convention until 1921, less than one year before his death. But his efforts had paid off: his church was the largest black denomination in the nation, having well over 2 million communicants, over 17,000 churches, 12,000 ministers, and an extensive missionary operation abroad. He indeed deserved his epitaph as "the Moses of the Baptists."

#### SUMMARY

The lives of William H. Grey, J.N. Donohoo, and E.C. Morris are all similar in that these men represent the efforts of a newly freed race to take its place in Arkansas life and history. Their efforts were probably duplicated many times by scores of similar men, both in and out of Phillips County. Perhaps this paper will give just recognition to these three people, and hopefully prompt additional research.

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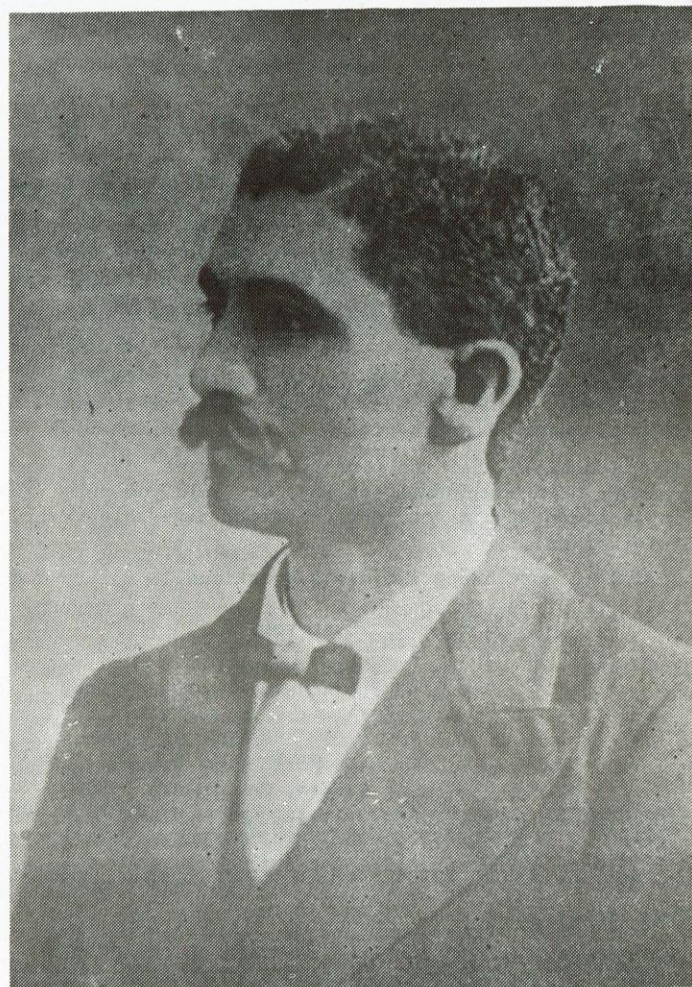
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J. N. Donahoo

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E. C. Morris

-23-



81 Country Club Drive  
Port Washington, N.Y. 11050

Phillips County Historical Society  
623 Pecan Street  
Helena, AR 72342

Dear Sir:

I am writing with the hope you can help in locating  
information about family ancestors:

Stephen O'Neal, and sons Joseph O'Neal  
and Samuel O'Neal

Family history states that the three served in the  
War Between the States in Kentucky, and are buried  
in a Confederate Cemetery in Helena, Arkansas.

Is it possible that the Library would have any  
records of those buried near-by, or could you put  
me in touch with a source which might have this  
information?

I will be most happy for any suggestions.

Thank you,  
Mary Kelley

\*\*\*

133 North Park Drive  
Madera, California 93637

Phillips County Historical Society  
623 Pecan Street  
Helena, Arkansas 72342

Dear Sir:

I am researching my family for admittance to D.A.R.  
The only information I can find on my maternal  
great-grandfather, is that he died in the Civil

War at the Battle of Helena, Arkansas.

His name is JAMES ANDERSON STONE.

The only other information I have is concerning  
his wife, PRISCILLA JANE (WEST) STONE, daughter  
of \_\_\_\_\_ Smith of Illinois and John W. West of  
Kentucky. Priscilla (West) Stone died 6 Aug 1916  
and is buried in the Riverview Cemetery, Jefferson  
City, Missouri.

Most of my paternal and maternal family came from  
Missouri, but I do not know if he enlisted in  
Missouri----or where.

Any help you can give me, would be greatly appre-  
ciated. If there is a charge for this service,  
please let me know in the enclosed SASE, and I shall  
remit by return mail. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Arvilla Drinkard Gill

\*\*\*

619 Witherspoon Drive  
Springfield, Illinois  
62704

Phillips County Historical Society  
623 Pecan Street  
Helena, AR 72342

Dear Sir:

I am doing genealogical research on my WALTERHOUSE  
family and am writing to you to learn if you have  
any information on this family- perhaps in a  
"local history file."

Also, do you have a copy of a county history for  
Phillips County? If so, there might be something  
there since my ancestor was an officer with the  
Phillips County Bank, about 1880. Although I am  
interested in any information on this surname



(it isn't all that common), I am especially interested in the names Charles Adelbert Walterhouse and Joseph Lewis Walterhouse. (The name is often misspelled as Waterhouse.)

Do you have a newspaper index, pertaining to death or news notices by surname? Joseph Lewis Walterhouse disappeared from Helena in 1881. I thought there might be some news item about this happening.

Of course, I will pay for any photocopying expenses when advised as to the cost. A self-addressed, stamped envelope is herewith enclosed for your convenience. I do hope that you will be able to help me.

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. Richard A. Randall

P. S. If you have a map of Phillips County, showing the townships, I would appreciate having a photocopy of this also.

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#### GOODSPEED

Goodspeed's HISTORY OF EASTERN ARKANSAS is out of print but Southern Historical Press of Easley, South Carolina has agreed to reprint it for \$32.00, postage included, is as many as 50 copies are ordered. Biographical sketches of citizens living in the following counties in 1890 are included, Phillips, White, Woodruff, Cross, Crittenden, St. Francis, Monroe, Lee, Arkansas and Prairie.

Anyone interested may contact Mrs. Cunningham at the West Helena Public Library.

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1700 McConnell Avenue  
Evansville, IN 47714

Phillips County Historical Society  
623 Pecan Street  
Helena, AR 72342

Dear Sir:

I need information on John Bone. He died in 1849 in Helena, Arkansas. He was from Warrick County, Indiana. I want from you a cemetery inscription and his listing on the 1850 Mortality Schedule.

I am asking you for this as it is not available from the Tri-State Genealogical Society or Willard Library here in Evansville ( of which I am a member).

If there is a fee for obtaining this information, please notify me and I will gladly pay for any information received. I have enclosed a self-addressed, stamped envelope for your convenience.

Sincerely,

Mrs. David (Sue) Brickey

\*\*\*

1944 Jamie Drive  
Memphis, Tennessee 38116

Phillips County Historical Society  
623 Pecan Street  
Helena, AR 72342

Dear Sir:

Re: Family Records

I am attempting to trace my ancestors, and would appreciate any assistance you might be able to



give.

My father's name was Daniel P. Lacefield, born August 6, 1875, in Lee County, Marianna, Arkansas to William Pinkney Lacefield and Lougenia Jenkins. My father had one sister, Bettie.

My grandmother, Lougenia Jenkins, was married to \_\_\_\_\_? Lacefield, brother to William P., and they had a daughter born to that union named Anne. That Lacefield had been married previously and had a son named Bob or Robert.

Both William P. Lacefield and his brother were buried at Helena, Arkansas. The approximate time of my grandfather's death was 1877 or 1878.

My grandfather, William Pinkney Lacefield served during the Civil War. I have a letter that he wrote to his mother in 1861. He stated he was encamped on the Obion River, and gave his mailing address as Union City, Tennessee.

Specifically I would appreciate knowing any of the following things about my grandfather:

1. Birthdate and place
2. Parent's names
3. Siblings
4. Wives
5. Children
6. Death date and verification of place of burial. Was it in the military cemetery in Helena?

If you cannot furnish any of the information, would you please inform me as to when and where I might be allowed to search your records. Any bit of information would be appreciated.

Yours truly,

(Mrs.) Gladys L. Wooten

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## THE GREAT BELL

The great bell that rings out in such beautiful tones, sonorous, sweet and soul-inspiring, filling all surrounding space, heard from twelve to fifteen miles away, has quite an interesting history. It was cast to order for the Second Baptist Church by the Clinton H. Meneely Bell Company of Troy, N.Y., in November, 1880. It has therefore been in its present position for more than twenty-two years. It is one of the finest bells in the country.

To the efforts of Prof. George H. W. Stewart, who was a resident of Helena at that time, and had been for years, occupying the position of principal of our colored public school, and superintendent of the Second Baptist Sunday school, may be ascribed a great deal of the credit for the inauguration and carrying forward of the movement so successfully accomplished in securing this magnificent bell. There is no finer bell in the world. Its composition is silver, copper and tin: not an ounce of steel, iron or any other metal except the above enters into its construction. Its entire cost, placed in position, was \$735.00.

It may be interesting to note the following dimensions of and inscriptions on the bell: The diameter across the rim is 46 inches, and height 37½ inches exclusive of the arch. The wheel, to which is attached the rope, is seven feet in diameter. The weight of this large bell is 2014 pounds. There is a ponderous ball and lever attached to the frame and used for funeral occasions or in giving a fire alarm.

On one side, the following inscriptions and names are cast: "Second Baptist Church, Helena, Ark. J. T. White, pastor, Dempsey Barrow, clerk, Geo. H. W. Stewart, treasurer. Deacons-Frank Bell, Henry Cooper, Walter Jackson, Frank Boyer, Henry



Jones, Wm. Best, Frank Marshall, November, 1880."

On the opposite side appears the following:  
"Non clamor sed amor, cantat in aure Dei." (Not noise, but love sounds in the ear of God.) "Come when I call to serve God all." Under the inscriptions is the name of the manufacturers. Clinton H. Meneely Bell Co., Troy, N.Y.

In raising money for this bell the church contributed in two rallies \$422. The Sunday school raised \$35 in one rally, and donated \$175.00 out of its treasury afterward, making a total of \$210.00 for the Sunday school, and making a grand total of \$632.00. The balance of the amount was raised in a short time by the contributions of some of the best white citizens, and concerts given by the Sunday school.

"From a 1902 issue of the HELENA WORLD"

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The bell hangs in the front yard of Mr. and Mrs. Will Ed Stiles on Highway 79 West within the Marianna City limits.



Included here is a brief synopsis of the last three meetings of the Historical Society. These reports were prepared by Betty M. Faust, President of the Society.

#### MEETING, SEPTEMBER 1980

The Historical Society met Sunday, September 28, 1980, at the Phillips County Museum. Lt. Colonel William B. Mays, History Professor at UCA at Conway, spoke on the recruitment of Troops in Arkansas by the Union Army during the Civil War. His talk had been given previously at the 1980 Annual Meeting of the Arkansas Historical Association in Arkadelphia. Mays is a retired Air Force Lieutenant Colonel who is currently teaching American History of the West and Civil War and Reconstruction, at UCA.

Mays stated in his talk that one out of every five men from Arkansas fighting in the Civil War fought for the North. It was his goal to arouse enough interest in the Arkansas Yankees to turn up some material from the descendants of Arkansas Unionists for an eventual book. As he was leaving, he divulged that two persons at the meeting admitted to being "closet yankees." Mays would not reveal their identity.

Mays told of Judge M.L. Stephenson, a Union officer stationed in Arkansas during the Civil War. Judge Stephenson came back to Arkansas after the Civil War to become a highly respected citizen despite the fact that he had been an officer in the Union Army. Mrs. C.M.T. Kirkman told the Society that Judge Stephenson's Indian pottery collection in the Museum is one of their most prized possessions. She also said that Mrs. M.L. Stephenson is credited with founding the present Library in 1888.

#### MEETING, JANUARY 1981

Rusty Porter, local railroad buff, was in charge of the program at the meeting of the Historical Society on Sunday, January 25, 1981, at the Museum in Helena. Two other railroad hobbyists, Randy Tardy and Walter Walker of Little Rock, also spoke at the meeting. Linda Von Kanel Mangold and Fran Hayes of Forrest City displayed a miniature replica of an old-fashioned depot they had made.

Porter, who practices law in West Helena, is an avid collector of railroad relics and is considered a local authority on trains and railroads. He spoke on railroad history in Phillips County. On display were items from his collection of railroad memorabilia, such as lanterns, passes and signs. Porter's interest and knowledge of railroading led to publication of an article he wrote entitled "By Steam and Rail to Helena," which appeared in George deMan's book - HELENA: THE RIDGE, THE RIVER, THE ROMANCE.

Randy Tardy and Walter Walker are both members of the Arkansas Railroad Club at Little Rock and the National Railway Historical Society. They are natives of Phillips County, and both are 1950 graduates of Sacred Heart Academy. Tardy is the business editor for the ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT. Walker is traffic manager for Orbit Valve Company at Little Rock. Their interest in local railroad history dates back more than 40 years to the days of the Delta Eagle streamliner which ran through Helena enroute to and from Memphis and Tallulah, Louisiana, from 1941 into the 1950s. Tardy brought an original color program from the inaugural run of the Delta Eagle streamliner given on May 11, 1941, when he was among those aboard the train on its first run. Tardy also had on display photographs he made at Helena in the 1940s of the Clarendon and Memphis "doodlebug" and the Illinois Central's



rail transfer boat PELICAN. Walker brought from his extensive collection of railroad china, some of the dining car china from the Missouri Pacific Eagle trains.

Lee Jacks of Little Rock, a member of our Society and a frequent contributor of articles for the QUARTERLY, was also in attendance at this meeting.

#### MEETING, MARCH 1981

The April meeting of the Historical Society was rescheduled to Sunday, March 22, because of the availability of the speaker on this date. The guest speaker was Dr. Carl Moneyhon, Associate Professor of History at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. The title of his talk was "Rich Man's War, Poor Man's Fight? The Economic and Social Impact of the Civil War on Phillips County." He discussed some of the preconceptions that exist concerning how the Civil War affected Southern life. Then he tested these ideas, using Phillips County as a case study. He talked about the county before the war, the events of the war years, and the resulting changes in society. He had compiled data from the Tax Records and the Census Records of Phillips County from 1860 to 1880. He left a copy of this data for the Historical Society.

#### NEXT MEETING OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The next meeting of the Historical Society will be on Sunday, June 14, at 3 P.M. at the Museum in Helena. The guest speaker will be Nan Mulvaney from the Fine Books Division of Taylor Publishing Company in Dallas. She will give a slide presentation which tells of the importance of capturing history now, and she will speak on having a County History published. Officers for the coming year will be elected.

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#### THE STEAMBOAT PENNSYLVANIA

by John Panhorst, Jr.

Headlines of a Memphis newspaper, 15 June 1858, read: "TERRIBLE EXPLOSION ON THE PENNSYLVANIA." The story followed: "The sad and terrible catastrophe which we record this morning, by which more than a hundred persons lost their lives, and at least as many wounded, without the least warning, on board the New Orleans and St. Louis Packet, PENNSYLVANIA, has cast a deep and solemn gloom over our entire community."<sup>1</sup> Federal customhouse records on file at the National Archives placed the final death count at twenty, not the hundred first feared lost.<sup>2</sup>

In the 115 years since this accident, at least three authors have written four articles about this event. The first to write, Mark Twain, certainly needs no introduction. Samuel Langhorne Clemens was a cub pilot and his brother, Henry, was 3rd mate on board the PENNSYLVANIA at the time of the explosion. Twain devoted two entire chapters in LIFE ON THE MISSISSIPPI to events which lead up to and surrounded the PENNSYLVANIA's sinking.<sup>3</sup> Professor Hunter, in his scholarly writing about this book, perhaps sums up the historical value best when he stated: "Mark Twain's classic picture of steamboat piloting, we must remember, was colored by a reminiscent and nostalgic mood as well as by a professional interest in telling a good story well."<sup>4</sup>

Mark Twain had good cause to remember the story, and remember it well, for his brother, Henry, was one of the twenty killed. In his autobiography, Samuel Clemens assigned an additional chapter to their life aboard the PENNSYLVANIA.<sup>5</sup> He added that he had a premonition which he had discussed with Henry about the impending disaster.



Not unlike our two local insurance companies who have capitalized on the names of Benjamin Franklin and Abraham Lincoln in their advertising, so has the Home Insurance Company used the name of Mark Twain. Its house organ regularly carries stories about Mark Twain. In 1960, it retold the PENNSYLVANIA story under the title, "On a Bend in the River."<sup>6</sup> The magazine had a sketch drawn of the PENNSYLVANIA, a chart (map) of the river then and of its present course; it also reproduced a photograph of the packet's master, Captain John Simpson Klinefelter and additional photographs of Samuel and Henry Clemens.

Of more recent vintage is the story, "When Mark Twain's Boat Blew Up" by Martha Banks.<sup>7</sup> Mrs. Banks is a descendant of Captain Jacob Klinefelter, who was also a riverboat captain and brother of John Klinefelter. Unfortunately, Mrs. Banks is more of a writer than an historian, as she made two errors in her story. She confused Twain's 476 ton PENNSYLVANIA with a second steamboat of the same name, a 242 ton vessel. Captain John Klinefelter's boat was a sidewheeler, not a stern-wheeler as Mrs. Banks repeatedly states. Mrs. Banks' literary qualities are verified by her masters degree in journalism and her many published works. This is apparently why she chose to give her story to the MARK TWAIN JOURNAL in lieu of the steamboat historical magazines, such as: WATERWAYS JOURNAL of St. Louis, Missouri; STEAMBOAT BILL, journal of the Steamship Historical Society of America, New York, New York; or SONS AND DAUGHTERS REFLECTOR, journal of the Sons and Daughters of Pioneer Rivermen, Marietta, Ohio.

It is interesting to compare the writing of different people over the span of a century. No doubt, I have gained a much broader understanding of the events that surrounded my great-great-grandfather's (Captain John Simpson Klinefelter)

boat and its association with Mark Twain by reading and studying these different authors.

#### FOOTNOTES

<sup>1</sup>DAILY APPEAL, Memphis, TN newspaper, 15 June 1858, p. 2, c. 1, also see related stories on p. 2, c. 2-4 and 6.

<sup>2</sup>An index to these records will be found in the Steamship Historical Society of America, Inc.'s, THE LYTLE LIST, New York, NY, 1952, see reference to PENNSYLVANIA, p. 150 and 247.

<sup>3</sup>Samuel Langhorn Clemens, LIFE ON THE MISSISSIPPI, London, Chatto and Windus, 1883, ch. XIX and XX.

<sup>4</sup>Louis C. Hunter, STEAMBOATS ON WESTERN RIVERS, Cambridge, MA, Harvard University Press, 1949, p. 242.

<sup>5</sup>Charles Neicer, THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF MARK TWAIN, New York, NY, Harper and Brothers, 1959, ch. XX.

<sup>6</sup>Home Insurance Company, NEWS FROM HOME periodical, New York, NY, Spring 1960, "On a Bend in the River," p. 8-11.

<sup>7</sup>Martha Banks, MARK TWAIN JOURNAL periodical, Kirkwood, MO, this manuscript has been accepted but has not been published, "When Mark Twain's Boat Blew Up."

This article was written for a course in American history.

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COINCIDENCES COME IN THREES

by T.E. Tappan

It is rare that three widely separated sources will write about or show on television one incident that happened near Helena in June of 1858, one hundred and twenty-two years ago. The three events that came to light the same week in November 1980, follow, with a correction of the way the event was shown on television.

1. Our belated June-September, 1980, PHILLIPS COUNTY HISTORICAL QUARTERLY was mailed out in November 1980 (delay in printing). It included my article about the explosion of the PENNSYLVANIA steamboat above Helena on June 8, 1858, as witnessed by Mrs. Margaret Harrison Clark. Injuries received in this explosion resulted in the death of Henry Clemens, Sam (Mark Twain) Clemens younger brother. The article related the events leading up to the fight between Pilot Brown and Sam, that caused Captain Klinefelter to relieve Sam at New Orleans, therefore saving his life. Otherwise he would have been in the explosion.

2. The same week the educational channel number 10 in Memphis, broadcast a new 1980 film made for TV showing, based on Twain's LIFE ON THE MISSISSIPPI, including the incidents which led up to the fight between Mark Twain and Pilot Brown.

The TV film as a whole was very well done, however, the producers took a great deal of liberty in rewriting that part of the story after the fight. Our story was correct in that Brown and Henry were still on the PENNSYLVANIA when it exploded a few miles above Helena. Sam was on the A.T. LACEY which left New Orleans two days after the PENNSYLVANIA.

Here in Mark Twain's own words is a

description of the explosion, from Page 172, Chapter XX of LIFE ON THE MISSISSIPPI, Harper and Brothers Publishers:

"Many people were flung to considerable distances and fell in the river; among these were Mr. Wood and my brother the carpenter. The carpenter was still stretched upon his mattress when he struck the water seventy-five feet from the boat. Brown the pilot, and George Black, chief clerk, were never seen or heard of after the explosion. The barber's chair with Captain Klinefelter in it and unhurt, was left with its back overhanging vacancy - everything forward of it, floor and all had disappeared; and the stupefied barber, who was also unhurt, stood with one toe projecting over space, still stirring lather unconsciously and saying not a word."

3. The same week Mrs. Sue Bradford of Harrisburg, Arkansas, the steamboat artist, who presented to the Phillips County Historical Society the painting of the 1870 steamboat, the CITY OF HELENA, now in the Museum, was in Helena at an artist's meeting. She called me and said she had some exciting news to tell me about a painting of the steamboat, the PENNSYLVANIA. She has become quite famous for her steamboat paintings, as she has 20 to 25 paintings of steamboats which have been placed in nine Hungry Fisherman Restaurants all over the South.

The great-great-grandson of Captain John Klinefelter, John Panhorst, Jr., had contacted her and commissioned her to paint a picture of the steamboat PENNSYLVANIA, on the Ohio River at Wheeling, West Virginia, showing the new (1850) suspension bridge in the background.

Along with the order Mr. Panhorst sent several historical articles about Captain Klinefelter, the PENNSYLVANIA, and numerous other steamboats he had



owned. He started out operations on the Ohio, but later moved to St. Louis and operated long-haul steamboats from St. Louis to New Orleans.

When the new suspension bridge was built in 1850, Klinefelter and other boat operators in the area felt that the bridge restricted the natural flow of river traffic, particularly at times of high water. Captain Klinefelter was at that time master of one of his earlier boats, the HIBERNIA #2, and was involved in an accident, striking one of the piers. This resulted in a lawsuit that went all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court.

When Klinefelter had his new steamboat the PENNSYLVANIA built, he had the stacks hinged and lowered them every time he passed under the bridge, whether he needed to or not; he also tooted his jackass sounding whistle in derision.

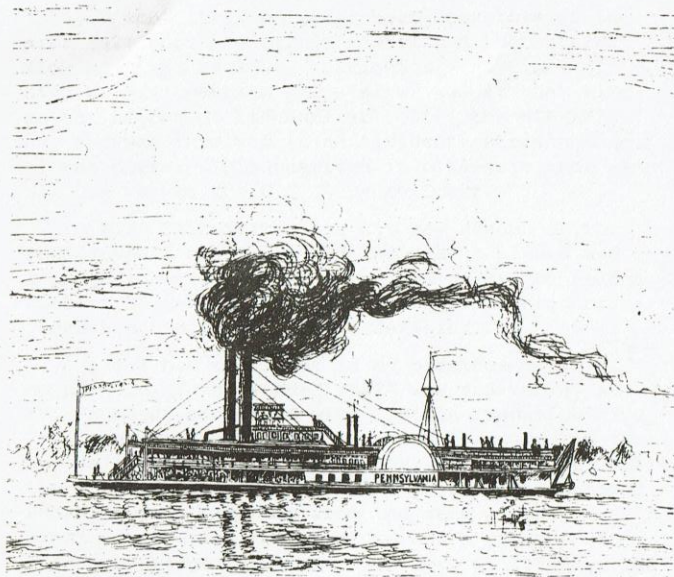
As I had mentioned in my previous article, no picture of the PENNSYLVANIA was available, so Mr. Panhorst consulted with Captain Frederick Way, Jr., a noted river historian, and he suggested that he use a picture of the PHILADELPHIA which was built the same year at the same boat yard in Shousetown, Pennsylvania, probably from the same plans. Mrs. Bradford is using this picture and a picture of Wheeling bridge before it blew down in 1854 for the painting of the PENNSYLVANIA. A copy of the sketch Mrs. Bradford sent us is included here.

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Captain Frederick, Way, Jr. is a member of our society, ever since he visited here in 1972 on the Delta Queen. He has been the President of the Sons and Daughters of Pioneer Rivermen for the past 20 years or so. He is the editor of the S & D REFLECTOR, a historical quarterly, in its 18th year. Our library has a complete file of all the back

numbers of this publication, and is an excellent source of material for anyone wanting to read about the steamboat days.





Painting by Mrs. W.S. Bradford

The Gillmore Report, 12/15/1864

by Steven W. Jones

The following report and topographical map clearly indicate the federal defenses at Helena in late 1864. This map is by far the most detailed, and in my opinion, the most accurate of the war-year maps of Helena.

The map by 1st Lt. Fred Sommer that appears in the OFFICIAL RECORDS OF THE UNION AND CONFEDERATE ARMIES is at best a crude battlefield sketch. Although it is supposedly drawn to scale, two of the battery placements are erroneous.

The topographical map by Capt. W. Hoelcke (1865) is likewise drawn to scale. Normally a topographical map enhances the accuracy of pinpointing defense positions. Hoelcke's map is even more detailed than the map which is included in this report. Unfortunately, Hoelcke's map places Fort Curtis too near the Mississippi River, indicating the Fort's west side rested on present day Pecan Street. As we know, the west front of Fort Curtis was located on present day Columbia Street.

This mapping error of roughly two city blocks forces us to discount Hoelcke's map as a valid historic document. The erroneous positioning of Fort Curtis prevents an accurate location of the Union batteries or any other structures located on the map.

This report by Major General Q.A. Gillmore not only documents the positions of the various batteries, but it also lists the artillery and ammunition at each battery. The second map by Captain Fred Sommers is much more precise, drawn after a survey of the area completed in late 1864. Gillmore's comments and suggestions are equally valuable, reflecting his philosophy of the Union's overall defenses in Eastern Arkansas.



REPORT OF INSPECTION OF THE DEFENSES  
AT HELENA, ARK. DECEMBER 15, 1864

To: Major General Canby Given by: Major General  
Q.A. Gillmore

The defenses at Helena consist of five (5) batteries and a redoubt, or square fort. The batteries named from right to left A,B,F,C,and D are located on the summits of hills which overlook the town, and hold more or less complete control of all the approaches to it by land.

The fort called Fort Curtis, is located on lower ground in the suburbs of the town, in a position central to the line formed by the other works.

I was unable to procure any map of the local city, except an imperfect scrawl not drawn to scale and without any distance marked upon it. A correct map is now being prepared but will not be in readiness to accompany this report.

The face of the country in the vicinity is quite rough and uneven, presenting a succession of hills and ridges for miles back from the river.

The relative positions of the several works at Helena are approximately given in the following sketch.

(Since writing this report the map referred to above has been received as is forwarded instead of the sketch which has been prepared)

Armament and Ammunition

Fort Curtis:

Six 24 pounders and one 32 pdr. - with 283 complete rounds per gun for the 24 pounder and 773 rounds for the 32 pdr. - There is a surplus of solid shot for both calibers.

Battery A:

Two 30 pdr. Parrott rifles, two 12 pdr. howitzers and one 6 pdr. gun (brass), with over 200 complete rounds per gun.

Battery B:

One 12 pdr. field howitzer, one 6 pdr. gun, and one 10 pounder Parrott Rifle, with 188 rounds, 357 rounds, and 167 rounds, for each piece respectively.

Battery F:

Two 6 pdr. brass guns with 72 rounds per gun, and one 12 pdr. howitzer with 131 rounds.

Battery C:

One 12 pdr. howitzer, 184 rounds; one 6 pdr. smooth bore gun, 244 rounds, and one 6 pdr. James rifle, 286 rounds.

Battery D:

One 6 pounder gun, 386 rounds, one 6 pdr. James Rifle, 190 rounds, and one 12 pounder howitzer, 348 rounds.

The guns are in tolerably good condition. The ammunition requires equalizations among the batteries, more particularly between batteries "F" and "D". It is all in pretty good condition and the magazines are reported to be dry in all weather with the exception of one.

I would respectfully recommend, if the post of Helena is to be permanently occupied, that the five batteries be at once made more secure against assault, by deepening and widening the ditch, so as to make the scarp higher and more difficult of ascent, and by placing palisading in advance of those portions of the batteries, where there is no ditch. A strong palisading around each work, and under the musketry fire of the parapet, would be a better



obstacle than a ditch not well flanked. These five positions should be so strongly fortified that they can each and all of them be securely held by a small force of about one company to each battery, for they are the keys of the position.

The entrances to some of the (powder) magazines are very much exposed to projectiles, whether dropping at a low or a high angle.

The battery commanders are aware of these defects, and understand how to make the required alterations. Other necessary repairs and slight alterations have been pointed out. A radical change in the plan of some of the batteries might judiciously be made, but have not been suggested, on account of the large amount of labor it would involve, and the probability in the event of an urgent demand for troops elsewhere that the post would be broken up. I know of no urgent and adequate military reason for maintaining it.

It gives us, it is true, a partial, unsatisfactory and approved by unremunerative dominion over a small area of thinly settled rebel territory, extending only so far and in such directions as troops, or scouting parties are sent, and existing only so long as those troops remain there, in a country where there are few if any loyal people; it assists in the suppression of illegal traffic to some extent and within contracted limits; and it furnishes protection to a population of some 4000 or 5000 colored people living on adjacent plantations.

Aside from these considerations, upon the value and importance of which there are, perhaps, various and conflicting views among military men, I know of no good reason for permanently occupying a place, which is proverbially unhealthy, and which can at any time be reoccupied by us, should disaster to our forces, or any serious attempt on the

part of the enemy to recover possession of any part of the territory west of, and adjacent to the Mississippi, render it advisable to do so.

There should perhaps, for the enforcement of the orders regulating trade, be one post on the Mississippi River, within the Department of Arkansas, but the small post at the mouth of White River, which will have to be maintained; for the reason that many of the supplies for the troops in the interior of Arkansas, have to be reshipped into the vessels of lighter draft, at that place, would, it is thought, fully answer that purpose.

So long as we have good and sufficient force at each of the principal points on the river, from which to draw troops in an emergency, and hold securely our line of communication with Little Rock, none but the most transient interruptions to travel on the Mississippi need be apprehended, and such interruptions, an enterprising enemy, willing to run the risk of capture, might inflict, even were the number of posts increased.

The remark which I made in the report upon New Madrid and Caruthersville Mo.: in connection with the subject of suppressing illegal trade, and protecting law abiding and loyal people, apply with equal force to Helena. It has been suggested that Helena is a convenient place from which to send expeditions across the river, to threaten the enemy's line of communication and supplies in Mississippi, and for other purposes, but regarded in that view simply, I am unable to recognize any advantage in the position of Helena, not shared equally by the post at the mouth of White River, and even by one at St. Charles, ninety miles from its mouth.

The first, of these it will be necessary to maintain for the reason already given, that supplies for the interior are reshipped there; the necessity for keeping up the second will depend on the progress

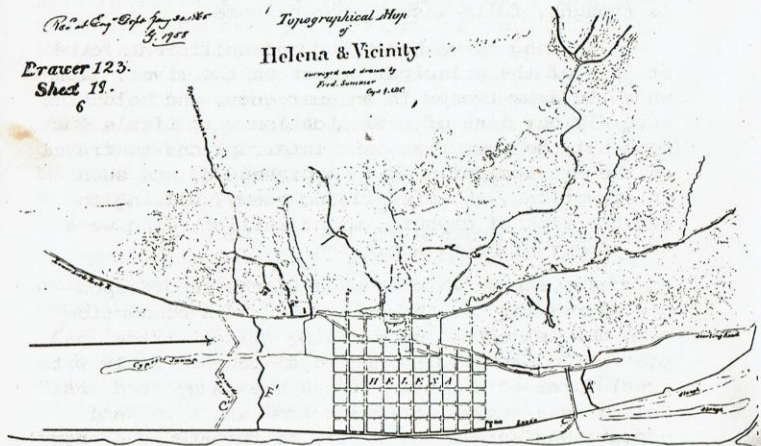


To: Major General Canby  
Commander, Div. of  
West Mississippi

Respectfully submitted,  
Q.A. Gillmore, Major  
General, General Inspec-  
tor General, Division of  
West Mississippi

Rec'd Eng. Dept. Jan 22/1865  
J. 1958  
Drawer 123.  
Sheet 19.  
6

*Topographical Map*  
of  
**Helena & Vicinity**  
surveyed and drawn by  
Fred. Sumner  
Apr 9. 1880.



Mississippi R.

His tracing has just been received from Capt. Thomas  
Chief Engineer Dept. of Lake, who has been in-  
-quired to furnish another copy to his good  
-friend. - New Orleans Jan 21 1866

## BY

Betty M. Faust

Scattered around Phillips County are community cemeteries which are overgrown with honeysuckle, sumac and blackberry canes. The one visited by my son-in-law and I, on December 28, 1980, fits this description perfectly.

This cemetery is called the Hackler Cemetery although there were no tombstones found in the cemetery with that name. John G. Hackler, age 35, is listed in the 1860 U.S. Census in Big Creek Township, P.O. Trenton, Phillips County. Hackler is again listed in the 1870 Phillips County Census. His son, also John G. Hackler, is listed in Goodspeed, 1890, BIOGRAPHICAL AND HISTORICAL MEMOIRS OF EASTERN ARKANSAS, in Crittenden County, Arkansas. According to Goodspeed, Hackler, Sr., came to Phillips County in 1836. He served under General Hindman in the Confederate Army, was captured while home on furlough, taken to Memphis, then to Alton, Illinois, and on to Richmond, Virginia, where he was paroled in 1865. He resumed farming in Phillips County and moved to Crittenden County in 1874. He died there November 6, 1885.

The explanation for the cemetery being named "Hackler" is that it was probably located on land owned by Hackler. There also could be unmarked graves of the Hackler Family.

The cemetery is located in the southwest part of Phillips County, a mile east of State Highway 318 and a mile and a half south of Highway 316 near Watkins Corner. It is about a mile southeast of the Emmet Lumpkin house.

The cemetery covers about an acre of ground.



There is no indication of a cemetery. It is found in heavy underbrush in a field. Anyone interested in visiting this cemetery should get detailed instructions before starting. Rose C. White of Marvell supplied this information for us.

#### LISTING FOR THE HACKLER CEMETERY

made by Betty M. Faust and Alan Belsches  
December 28, 1980

##### ABLES, WILLIAM FRANK

Arkansas

Pvt 216 PW Escort Co ASC

World War I

Jan 18 1889      Sept 8 1961

##### BEARD, WILLIAM MIKE

Son of J.H. and A.B. Beard

Born Nov 8, 1896      Died Sept 18, 1906

##### CATLETT, R.W.

Feb. 22, 1886 - Nov. 20, 1915

"Come Home: Woodman of the World  
Memorial:

##### CREAMER, MICHAEL

(Civil War Veteran)

Co E 6 Ind. Inf.

##### CRISP, OCTAVIA

Daughter of J.W. and Addie Higginbotham

Wife of Arthur Crisp

Dec. 5 1894 - May 9 1910

##### DOUGHERTY, NANCY JANE

Wife of A.W. Dougherty

and fourth daughter of Wm. & E.A. Slayton

Died July 31, 1876

Aged 27 years

"Too good for earth, to Heaven she has gone."

#### DREHER

John

Feb. 22, 1835

Nov. 14, 1891

"He died as he lived A Christian"

(Note: Inscriptions for John, Johnnie,  
Lizzie, Mattie Alma and Rosina Dreher  
are on the same monument).

Johnnie

Son of John and H.A. Dreher

Jan. 9, 1873

Oct. 20, 1876

Lizzie

Daughter of John and H.A. Dreher

Oct. 15, 1890

Aug. 29, 1899

Lizzie Kendall Dreher

May 9, 1888

Sept. 3, 1952

Mattie Alma

Daughter of John and H.A. Dreher

Aug. 12, 1880

Aug. 12, 1884

Rosina

Daughter of John and H.A. Dreher

March 24, 1877

Aug. 24, 1878

"How many hopes lie buried here"

##### FURR, AUBREY

Son of V.B. and Millie Furr

Mar 30, 1913 - Aug. 6, 1913

"Our darling"

"Baby"

##### GRESION, WILLIAM A.

Born \_\_ 5, 1858 - Died Jan. 23, 1885



GRIMES, MARY S.

Wife of A.M. Grimes and  
Daughter of Mack and Mollie Wilson  
Feb. 28, 1888 - March 18, 1909  
"I am waiting for thee"

HIGGINBOTHOM

Cornelia  
Born June 11, 1872  
Died Nov. 4, 1883

J.W.  
May 16, 1848  
Feb. 5, 1912  
"He was faithful to every duty."

Jettie  
Born Oct. 26, 1875 - Died Oct. 4, 1876

Lee  
Born Jan. 1, 1882 - Died Oct. 12, 1882

Lillie  
Wife of Ed Higginbothom  
Born Jan. 12, 1879  
Died Nov. 23, 1898  
Aged 19 yrs 10 mos 11 days  
"A light from our household is gone  
A voice we loved is stilled  
A place is vacant in our hearts  
That never can be filled."

(Ludie)  
Wife of M.G.B. Scaife  
Daughter of J.W. and Addie Higginbothom  
Born Dec. 7, 1885 - Died Mar. 13, 1907

KERSEY

Charles A.  
Born May 26, 1889  
Died July 13, 1901  
Aged 12 years 1 month 17 days

Infant - Son of W.M. and Maggie Kersey  
Born and Died Feb. 26, 1888  
"A little Flower of love  
that blossomed but to die."

William M.  
Born May 30, 1864  
Died Oct. 19, 1891  
"Sleep on dear Husband and take thy rest  
In Jesus arms forever blest."

KING

Arthur L.  
Son of Jas. L. and Emma King  
Sept. 30, 1900 - Sept. 28, 1914  
"Sweetly Sleeping"

Bertha Lucile  
Jan. 30, 1896 - Nov. 7, 1908  
Daughter of Jas. L. and Emma King  
"Beautiful, lovely, she was but given,  
a faint bud to her blossom in heaven"

Bunnie  
Wife of J.J. King  
June 5, 1862 - Dec. 10, 1899

Emma E.  
Wife of Jas. L. King  
Oct. 19, 1868 - Aug. 17, 1907  
Age 38 yrs 9 mos 28 days

Jas. L.  
May 14, 1861 - Nov. 26, 1912  
(Note: Big Woodman of the World Monument)

Lillie  
Wife of J.J. King  
Nov. 8, 1873 - Sept 17, 1902



Pearlie  
 Daughter of J.J. and A.C. King  
 Born Aug. 13, 1888  
 Died June 18, 1890  
 "She's gone though many loud hearts  
 would fain have prolonged her stay.  
 But He in all decreed it otherwise  
 And lov'd one past away."

#### MCSULLEY

John J.  
 July 4, 1821 - Dec. 2, 1891  
 "In memory of Father and Son  
 Gone but not forgotten."

W. Templeton (Metal Marker)

William T.  
 Son of John J. and M.L. McSulley  
 May 26, 1888 - Jan. 21, 1899

#### MACK, JOHNNIE

Sept. 14, 1845 - Mar. 6, 1916  
 "Asleep in Jesus"

#### OWENS

Fronie  
 Sept. 10, 1894 - Sept. 1895  
 Age 1 year

Hiram  
 Died Sept. 1904  
 Age 7 months

John Wesley  
 Mar. 9, 1914 - Jan. 15, 1915  
 Age 10 months 6 days

Lizzie  
 Born Feb. 1, 1898 - Died Oct. 1898

#### OVERALL, ETHEL

Oct. 31, 1902 - Apr. 19, 1928  
 "At Rest"

#### PATE

R.A.  
 Son of G.R. and Sara Pate  
 Jan. 10, 1886 - Dec. 30, 1910  
 "Though lost to sight to memory dear"

Sarah  
 Wife of G.R. Pate  
 Dec. 18, 1861 - Aug. 23, 1908

#### PATTERSON

Jettie Sparks  
 June 20, 1888 - Jan. 10, 1929  
 "This lovely bud, so young and fair,  
 called hence by early doom. Just came  
 to show how sweet a flower, In Paradise  
 would bloom."

Mary E.  
 Oct. 4, 1865 - Dec. 16, 1927  
 "Having served her generation  
 By the will of God she fell asleep"

#### PETTIE, RICHARD E.

Mar. 7, 1932 - Mar. 12, 1938  
 "Our Darling"

#### ROBERSON, MRS. H. A.

Aug. 4, 1850 - Jan. 12, 1926  
 "Rest, Mother, Rest in quiet sleep,  
 While friends in sorrow o'er thee weep."

#### SCAIFE, LUDIE

Wife of M.G.B. Scaife  
 Daughter of J.W. and Addie Higginbotham  
 Dec. 7, 1885 - Mar. 13, 1907  
 (Note: Also listed with Higginbothams)

#### SPARKS

Annie  
 Born Oct. 24, 1883 - Died June 18, 1888  
 Daughter of G.O. and M.E. Sparks  
 "And now she dwells in fairer climes..."

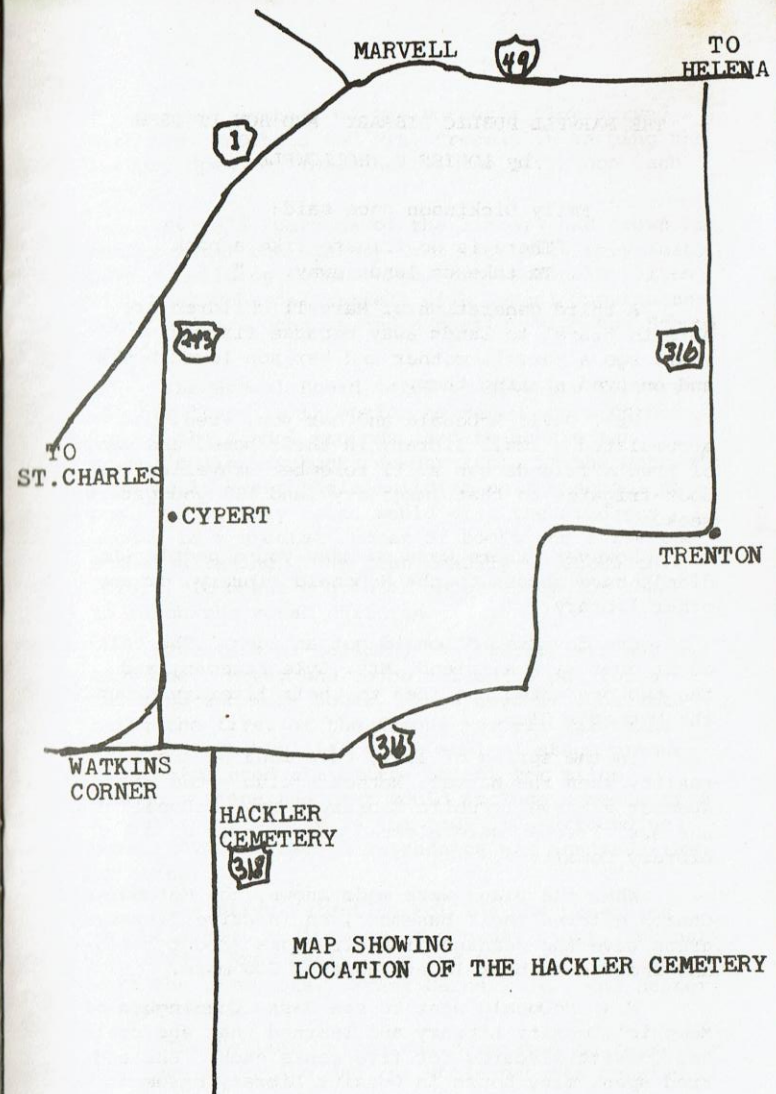


Calvin  
Son of G.O. and M.E. Sparks  
June 30, 1891 - Aug. 25, 1898

David  
Son of G.O. and M.E. Sparks  
Jan. 10, 1886 - Aug. 3, 1887

George O.  
Feb. 5, 1858 - Nov. 19, 1892

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## THE MARVELL PUBLIC LIBRARY AND HOW IT GREW

by LOUISE B. HOLLOWELL

Emily Dickinson once said:

"There is no frigate like a book  
To take us lands away...."

A third generation of Marvell children are able to travel to lands away because fifty-nine years ago a Marvell mother and her son loved books and enjoyed sharing them.

Mrs. David McDonald and her son, Fred, had accumulated a small library in their home, and many of Fred's friends can still remember traveling his book-frigates to that imaginary land all youngsters seek.

However, there were so many young people who didn't have access to the McDonald library, or any other library.

One day Mrs. McDonald got an idea. She talked it over with a friend, Mrs. Lyle Freeman, and the two presented the idea to their literary group, the Mother's Club.

In the spring of 1922, this idea became a reality when the Marvell Mother's club voted to sponsor a Marvell Public Library. Mrs. McDonald and Mrs. Freeman were elected co-chairmen of a Library Committee.

When the plans were made known, the Methodist Church offered their basement, an inactive library group gave the remnant of their books (about 100), and individual book lovers donated 200 more.

Mrs. McDonald went to see Jesse Cunningham of Memphis' Cossitt Library and learned that she could get Cossitt discards for five cents each. She and Fred spent many hours in Cossitt Library basement selecting books for the little library back home.

Other members of the Mother's Club served with Mrs. McDonald and Mrs. Freeman in keeping the library open for three hours, one afternoon each week.

By 1923, patrons of the library had grown in number until the Library Committee knew they must have a building. This time, Mrs. McDonald talked with Noel Johnson, Marvell High School Superintendent, and Mr. Johnson had a meeting with the School Board.

The School Board voted to give the library a 15-year lease (with option to renew) on a corner lot of the school grounds, and to donate the school's library books (under 100), if the Mother's Club would erect their building on the school campus. This, they felt, would give the students access to a greater number of books and raise the school's rating. The Club readily accepted this offer. It meant a greater opportunity for them to reach the rural children.

The task of building the library was not an easy one. Money had to be raised to pay for a building and more books. This need brought into being the first of the famous Marvell Valentine Follies. The Follies was a musical stage production which used all of the talent for miles around. Since the cast would include someone from almost every family in the town and surrounding communities, a record attendance was assured--rain or shine.

The first Valentine Follies was presented in the school auditorium, Wednesday night, February 13, 1924. Mrs. Neely Orme and Mrs. G.A. Brooks were the directors. Frank Garner, Jr., was Master of Ceremonies.

The Follies' stage was decorated to represent one huge Valentine and the whole program carried



out the Valentine theme. A contest was held after the program and Miss Estella Major was selected "Queen of the Living Valentines." Her princesses were Nobye Cooke, Leta Hunt, Willene Palmer, Margaret Burton, Kathleen McKinney, and Mrs. Harvey (Mabel Palmer) Erwin. Neely Orme, Jr., and Albert Wiesberger were selected as train bearers to the queen.

The "take" from these annual Valentine Follies ran from \$80 for the first performance, to around \$500 for some of the later ones. (Remember, this was when a dollar was worth 100 cents!) The Library Committee also took any contributions offered (they did not solicit) and had dozens of rummage and food sales before enough money was raised.

But all of the hard work paid off. On Monday, February 18, 1924, the Marvell Public Library moved into its new 20x30 foot bungalow. The following Thursday its doors were open to the public. The little brown building was paid for and its shiny new shelves held more than a thousand books.

During these early days scarcely a week passed without a gift of some sort coming to the library. The lights, water, and telephone services were donated as long as these utilities were home-owned. Later, the school took over these expenses along with insurance on the building and its contents.

Paintings for the library were donated by Mrs. Eva Thompson, Miss Lily Peter, Mrs. J.B. Mooring, Mrs. Becker, and Mrs. Macon. Mrs. Thompson also hand-painted a three-panel screen that had been made for the library.

Many friends of the library still donate books-- new ones and others from their own shelves. Many of the gift-books are non-fiction memorials.

One of the nicest of these is the set of Encyclopedia Britannica, given by Miss Lily Peter in memory of her brother, Jesse Peter. Hugh Williams, a Marvell cabinet maker, donated his labor in making a special portable bookcase to hold the Encyclopedia.

During 1924, a story hour was held each week to acquaint the smaller children with the wonderful world of books. The old S.I.A. occasionally served sandwiches or cookies after the story time. The building was small and after a while there were so many children that the project had to be abandoned. But it served its purpose--the children kept coming back for books their mothers could read to them. And the mothers usually came along to get a book for their own pleasure.

The Marvell Library has been fortunate in always having a librarian who read books, talked about books, and who had a firm belief in the importance of books.

The first librarians received only \$1.00 for their three hours' work. Later, the school hired a librarian to keep the building open three days each week. The first full-time librarian came in 1935, when the Works Progress Administration was providing jobs for the unemployed. After WPA days, the school again paid a part-time librarian. She was assisted during the rush periods by high school girls who got their first experience in library work this way.

The library and school have always worked together. For years the library gave an English Award Pin, at the close of school, to the student making the most progress in High School English. For many years now the school has had a library of its own, but the children still use the public library, too. Almost any hour of the day will find from one to a dozen children there. Some just want



books for entertainment, others want reference material not found in the school library.

Mrs. McDonald's love of books and people caused her to use her tireless energy in shouldering a major portion of library responsibility. She had been chairman of the Library Committee from its beginning. So, when the Library Association was formed in 1924, to take over the former work of the Mother's Club, it was not surprising that Mrs. McDonald should be elected president. She served in that capacity for the life-time of the Association.

The Association membership included anyone who paid the fifty-cent dues. This money was used to pay for repairs, new books, fuel, or any other expense of the library. The dues were raised to \$1.00 during World War II. The library was always free to all, but only members of the Library Association selected the ten-member Board from among its paid-up membership.

Years ago a small annex was added to the original building, for a rest room and storage. Later, the American Legion had the brown frame siding of the building covered with buff brick to match the remodeled school buildings. The Library Association put out new shrubbery.

In 1950, the Marvell Library became a branch of the Phillips County Library when a one mill tax was voted for this purpose. This gives the library access to books from the County Library at Helena, and the State Library Commission in Little Rock. The County Library also furnishes magazines and other supplies. In 1954, the Association voted to turn the heavy responsibility of running the library over to the City of Marvell. The town population had increased from between 600-700, to over 1,100. The City retained the same Library Board, but added two new members.

The Marvell Public Library by 1960 had approximately 12,000 books on its crowded shelves. The small storage room was bulging with old books (that were still valued for reference material), and files of magazines, literary club files, etc.

The library's special need at that time was a quiet place for those doing research work. There was an increasing demand from adult patrons for current fiction, and for non-fiction and technical books for information.

During the 255 library-days in 1959, the Marvell Public Library lent 10,724 books (3,030 adult, 7,694 juvenile); an average of 42 per day. There were then 1,072 County Library books circulating among the Marvell library readers.

The beginning of 1960 saw several changes at the Marvell Library. Because of failing health, two faithful workers handed in resignations, effective December 31, 1959. They were Mrs. David McDonald who had served as Library Board Chairman for thirty-five years and Mrs. Hal Brown, who had served as librarian for thirteen years.

Mrs. Prentiss Clatworthy, Assistant-Librarian for a number of years and an ardent lover of books, became the new full-time librarian. Her sister, Mrs. Arnold Schaffhauser followed her as librarian.

Every week is Library Week at the Marvell Public Library.

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## HISTORY

of the

### ELAINE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

1914-1980

#### Acknowledgements

Many people assisted in collecting this material, some of which I will name and express my heart-felt appreciation for their help.

Thanks go to Mary Louise Demoret Jones for making available the bank records. The list of ministers was taken from a Bible School project prepared by Minnie Countiss' class. Conversations with long time members such as Lila Wall Huber, Willie Mae Kyte, Ralph Kyte, Sr., Dewey Klutts, and Vera McLaurin were invaluable.

Some of the facts and dates were taken from THE HISTORY OF ARKANSAS METHODISM by Dr. Walter N. Vernon.

Other material is from my thirty years association with the church and may contain errors in memory.

Margie I. Mills

#### Introduction

Deep in the delta between the White and Mississippi Rivers lies Elaine, founded about 1912. This fertile soil is said to be the richest land in the world, heavily wooded with cypress and gum, and was interspersed with 10 feet high canebrakes. Kelly Lumber Co., of Fort Smith, bought thousands of acres of this underdeveloped land, cleared it and dug Yellow Bank for drainage.

Settlers came from every direction to buy or homestead the new land. By 1911 or 1912 enough people had arrived to need a church, so a one room frame building was erected near the site of the present Baptist Church. All denominations worshipped in this Union Church until the Baptists outgrew the other groups and wished to establish its own congregation. Thus the Methodists and some others were asked to leave.

#### Organization

Prior to 1912 the Methodists had been served by itinerant circuit riders from Mississippi or Missouri. In 1924 C.P. Robbins was sent to Elaine as pastor. F.H. Champion followed him in 1915. At that time the minister was obliged to live in Mellwood, 10 miles south. Champion was replaced by E. J. Slaughter in 1915. Under him the first church was constructed in 1919 and 1920. He moved his family to Elaine into a rented house until a parsonage was added through the efforts of the Ladies Aid. Reverend Slaughter was followed by Allan E. Goode, who stayed until 1921. He was followed by M.C. Kelsey who died the following December. N.N. Johnson served until 1925. After him came Carlos Bumpers, the first pastor to occupy the parsonage. In 1929 J.R. Nelson came and stayed until 1932.

George C. Patchell came in 1932 and served the longest of any pastor at Elaine, 1932-1940. During his tenure, Mary Elizabeth Hickerson organized the choir. One of the most progressive and best loved, he was followed by Elmus C. Brown who served 1940-1946. The system of collecting money each week was changed to the pledge system at this time.

The next was a Yankee, R.O. McRae, 1947-1949.



This colorful minister once served as grand marshall of the Mule Races in Elaine. Another of his accomplishments was replacing a church at Mellwood, located on his charge. Glen Bruner, a chaplain from World War II, served from 1949-1954. Sam Watson served from then until 1957. Among other things he was an avid deer hunter and killed a buck the last year he was at Elaine. He did extensive work with A.A. Charles Casteel served from 1957-1960. Plans for a new parsonage were started and it was completed in 1964.

Reverend Casteel was followed by Dub Fisher, Wayne Jarvis, Jesse Bruner, and Wendell Dorman. James Breazeale, another Yankee from Chicago, came next. Since Brother Breazeale, the church has been served by Carl Strayhorn, Raymond Hawkins, and Roger Glover.

#### Buildings

In 1917 lot 4 block 2, Townsite of Elaine, Arkansas, was purchased for \$250 from Frank and Julia Stanley Gregory. Trustees for the deed were B.B. Stanley, Dr. Orlie Parker, W.H. Klutts, Henry Phelps, J. Aleo Crow, and R.H. Carpenter.

A brick veneer building was completed by the end of 1918. W.H. Clem built the structure. The mortgage to the Board of Church Extension, of the Methodist Church South, dated September 28, 1920, was signed by: J.M. Countiss, Sr., W.L. Meachem, J.D. Lowery, D.O. Parker, J. Aloe Crow, and W.H. Phelps. This mortgage was satisfied in December 1925.

More room was needed, so lots 5 and 6, Block 2, Town of Elaine, were bought on February 1, 1920, from E.E. McGhee, Como, Mississippi. A deed of trust was made for \$400 February 5 and satisfied July 9, 1926.

While the church was being constructed, the pastor moved his family into rented quarters until building was completed. C.H. Bumpers was able to move into a new parsonage just completed by the Ladies Aid. This six room frame home on lot 6 was paid out in 1934; it was a deed of trust to J.M. Countiss, Sr., for \$3,000.

Lot 3, Block 2, Town of Elaine, was bought January 12, 1937, for \$250, from Mrs. Nellie R. Smith White. The trustees were: J.M. Countiss, Jr., J.D. Lowery, J.J. Jackson, J.R. Campbell, and W.L. Meachem.

With cash in hand, from memorials and donations, the church was rebricked, reroofed, and completely refurbished, including paneling, at a cost of \$15,000.

In 1967 the older parsonage was sold and moved, being replaced by a modern brick home. The pastor and his family moved in August 1967. A big open house and celebration was held when the last note was paid August 10, 1970.

The church was further improved in November 1971, when the outside wood work was covered with white aluminum siding. The Church Board paid \$200 for this.

Below is listed other improvements to the church property. A Roger's organ was installed at a cost of \$5,000. It was dedicated with a recital March 31, 1974, and all payments were made at that time. In December 1976 a church sign was erected and donated by the Countiss estate in memory of their loved ones. On December 18, 1976, a speaker system was installed by an anonymous donor. The Fellowship Hall was remodeled in 1978 at an expense of \$6,700. This included floor, carpet, lights, lowered ceilings and paneling. The new roof was added in 1979. The U. M. W. added a lovely parlor



in the same year.

#### Giving

This open handed congregation has enjoyed many gifts and memorials over the years. Many of the members are farmers and it was found that pledging alone did not provide sufficient revenue in bad years. A system of reporting to all members on the state of the church's finances was developed. Letters go out at Christmas and Easter. This has proven successful and all needs have been met.

#### The Choir

Organized by Mary Elizabeth Crow in 1940, the choir has been very effective. Mrs. Crown serves as the present organist and choir director. Others who served from time to time were: Randall Moore, Helen Wildberger, Willie Mae Kyte, Nancy Cook, and Bernice Patridge Breazeale.

The appropriate music adds much to the worship service. Some of the outstanding members have sung since the beginning; Vera MaLaurin was a charter member and still sings. Lilly Jackson, Elbert McLaurin, Willie Mae Kyte, Mary Katherine Crisp, Marion Crisp, Jimmy Countiss and Minnie Countiss were all prominent singers.

#### Furnishings

Much of the furnishing was placed in memory of loved ones. All of the pews were placed in memory of J.M. Countiss, Sr. by his family; the pulpit chairs were in memory of Herman White, Sr.; all the hymnals were memorials; the desk in the study is in memory of Hazel Longenecker; Mrs. Lucy's children gave the secretary in the vestibule; the Alderman family gave the baptismal fount and one pulpit for K.E. Alderman; the chancel pillow was

given by Mr. McDaniel in memory of Gilly Kyte, his daughter; the chimes were for John Murphy Williams from memorials and his family; Reverend James Breazeale made and gave the wooden cross in memory of John Murphy.

The bookcase was placed in the parlor in memory of T.M. Mills by the Young Adult Class; the furnishings in the Primary Department were placed there by M.M. Crisp, W.O. Demoret, Mary Louise Jones and others; the original red carpet was paid for by monies collected by Willie Mae Kyte, it was replaced by blue carpet and velvet pew cushions by a committee; all were memorials. Mrs. Kyte also collected money to install the beautiful windows. The picture in the foyer is for Betty Huber by her husband; the pictures in the sanctuary are in memory of Paul Sullivan by his wife and son; the present piano and the preceding one are by the W.O. Demoret family in memory of Mary Demoret; they gave the pulpit Bible for their son, William Demoret II; the sacrament table is for Dickie Lucy, given by his family; the chancel set was placed by Lila and Joe Wall for J.C. Wall.

The cross on the bell tower and record system were built by Ralph Kyte, Sr. who also constructed the stairway and did much of the work on the interior of the church. Many smaller memorials were combined to place items too numerous to mention. The kitchen was furnished by the WSCS and the tables and chairs in the fellowship hall and the parlor furnishings were bought by the same group. Early on Mary Demoret's class paid \$2.50 each to buy their own chairs. Bobby Brewer's class placed the carpet upstairs.

The church sign was given in memory of J.M. Countiss Jr., by his family. A memorial book is kept up to date and each item can be identified by



donor, cost and date.

#### Church Roll

In 1975 under Raymond Hawkins the correction of church roll was begun. It was completed by Jamie Tucker and Roger Glover in 1980. The present roll shows 120 active members; approximately 200 were removed for such causes as death, moving, or transfer to other churches. When the Wabash church closed, its members transferred to Elaine.

#### Church Flowers

The present worship committee, Mary Katherine Crisp, chairman, has developed a systematic system of placing pulpit flowers. Previously the members had supplied the flowers with Mae Porter handling it for years. Sympathy flowers are furnished by the Sunday School.

#### Evangelism

Mary Elizabeth Crow has chaired this committee for five years. It has been able to have many successful revivals, usually one each fall and at Easter.

#### Sunday School

One of the supportive groups is the Sunday School; organized in 1914, it serves to supply new church members. Roger Glover recently initiated an adult confirmation class. This class will be repeated annually in the future. The present attendance is sixty. Harold Jacob is the superintendent.

#### Bible School

Lila Huber, who taught in the primary department since 1936, still serves. She organized the

Bible School about 1940. It has continued until now. Originally the Wabash children attended here and some of the expense was borne by that church. Dozens of teachers and members help with this project.

The graduation program is a highlight of the year. The love offering at that time defrays much of the cost. Held early in June, the average attendance is 50.

#### The Women's Society

The women of the church were organized in 1919 as a Ladies Aid to help raise the preacher's salary. They built the first parsonage. They became the Missionary Society, whose main function was to support missions. When the pledge system was adapted, they continued to maintain the parsonage and to support the community services.

In 1968 the name was changed to the Women's Society of Christain Service. One annual project is the presentation of a life membership. With the merger with E.U.B. they became The United Methodist Women. Two memberships were given in 1980 with an annual enrollment of 22.

#### Laymen's Organization

Established about 1955 this group was successful for several years. It was charge wide and it is difficult to describe without bringing in members from Mellwood and Wabash. Some prominent members were: Jr. Carpenter, J.J. Jackson, Carl Huber, B.H. Lucy, T.M. Mills, Clay Bumpers, Clem Foreman, J.M. Countiss, Jr., Bennett Williams, M.M. Crisp, John Deckleman, and Ross T. McGinn. The group does not now function but the church maintains an effective Lay Leadership program. Steve Toney and Ben Williams are the present leaders.



#### Epworth League and MYF

Through the years, other church organizations have flourished. No specific information was found on the Epworth League but the MYF was strong in the 60s. Martha Sylar, Clay Bumpers and Mary Louise Jones were among the major leaders.

They participated widely in the district activities and entertained the conferences from time to time. Space does not permit the listing of the well known members but when that group went away to college, the group ceased activity.

#### Cooperation

The church cooperates with such community activities as Boy Scouts, Little League, Gideons, and World Hunger. It has provided facilities for the Kiwanis International for ten years.

Another item of interest is a continuing Bible Study which is 5 years old. This is taught by the pastor and various members. The average membership is 20.

C.H. Roark has served as church treasurer for over 20 years. Dewey Klutts has been a trustee since 1929.

T.M. Mills is the only member listed in Who's Who in Methodism.

The usual sources of revenue are illustrated by the following true stories. Mrs. Bob Cates left her property to the church except for a sum set aside to provide for her dog. When the dog died, his money was sent to the church.

Mary Louise Demoret at age 5 devised a method of collecting money by charging their guests before they ate.

The church and parsonage are debt free and fully insured. The congregation is very happy with its progressive young pastor and the Elaine United Methodist Church is pressing forward in the work of the Lord.

#### OLD HELENA

BY

Dale P. Kirkman

The Spanish explorer, Desoto, crossed the Mississippi River into Arkansas in 1541, and it is thought by many that this crossing was a few miles south of Helena. THE LEGEND OF PACAHA is concerned with his explorations, and it also tells of the Arkansas Indians coming down the river from a former home and settling at Pacaha (Helena). Part of the interesting tale relates that Desoto had a silver cross erected on a 75 feet high mound at Pacaha, a hill which the Indians held sacred.<sup>1</sup> Interested Helena readers usually identified this high spot as the hill which later was the site of Sylvanus Phillips' home, and later still, was the location of Fort Curtis.

It is not known certainly what tribes of Indians were encountered here by Desoto, though Marquette and Joliet found Quapaws (Arkansas) in this area in their exploratory trip down the Mississippi in 1673. Resident Indians presented no great problem at the time of permanent white settlement, as most of them had left this part of the state sometime between the explorations of Marquette and Joliet and the arrival of Sylvanus Phillips and others. But Indians of different epochs, including mound builders, left many vestiges of their cultures here.

The land which was dedicated to the public as the site of the Town of Helena was spoken for by the white settlers before that land was ever a part of the United States. The site is the east part of a Spanish Grant, referred to as Private Survey #2388, or the William Russell, assignee of Patrick Cassidy claim. The part of the Grant containing the original town is mainly in Section 9



of Township 2 South, Range 5 East, of the Fifth Principal Meridian. The whole was surveyed in 1816, and a patent was issued by the United States to William Russell, assignee of Patrick Cassidy, in 1824.<sup>2</sup> The confirmation of this Grant is listed in AMERICAN STATE PAPERS.<sup>3</sup>

Sylvanus Phillips and William Russell were partners in the founding of the new settlement of Helena, which was a direct result of the creation of Phillips County by the Territorial Legislature in May, 1820. They designated approximately 275 acres of the east part of P. S. #2388 as the town site, dividing that acreage into 701 numbered lots and two unnumbered lots.<sup>4</sup> The town site was surveyed and platted on a map dated December, 1820, by Nicholas Rightor, a government surveyor from New York State who had already settled here several years before that time. The town's position was delineated by the river on the east, Back Alley on the west, just west of College Street, on the south by Elm Street, and on the north by an area in between Walker and Adams Streets, sometimes described as by the Porter Tract and the old Rightor house.

The Spanish Grant directly south of the south line of Helena was P. S. #2295, confirmed to William Patterson's heirs in 1816. Later the land was added to Helena with the names New Helena and the Middle Addition. When William Russell surveyed this property in 1816, he noted that nearly the entire length of the claim had been cleared and improved, and that there were a number of houses and fields on the north line of the survey, and on Patterson's claim and on the land of the Patrick Cassidy grant.<sup>5</sup> There was already a schoolhouse in December, 1820, near the southwest corner of Beech and York Streets.<sup>6</sup>

Easy United States land policies drew

settlers to the Helena area. Military land warrants for service in the war of 1812, certificates of purchase from the United States, New Madrid Certificates held by those whose lands elsewhere were destroyed by the New Madrid earthquakes of 1811-1812, were reasons enough for coming here. Briefly the crowd congregated at a village near the mouth of the St. Francis River, called Utica, which existed from about 1817 to 1820,<sup>7</sup> and which probably ceased to exist when Helena came into being.

The Dedication document recognized the terrible water problem, from the river, from drainage off the hills, from numerous local springs, and from the cypress or swamp in the center of town. Plans for using Spring Creek, the large stream cutting through town, for drainage (even now the path it cut is the main drainage ditch, though mostly covered), together with a drainage canal for the cypress area, and provisions for locating a river levee as needed, all showed that the proprietors were fully aware of the water problems of their projected town. They proposed placing the buildings and places of importance to the future community on the ridge, the hills, or in other protected places.

Some of the street names reflect the events of the period, mainly the War of 1812. Naval leaders are represented by McDonough, Perry, and Porter Streets, and York was a battle in Canada during that war (Toronto). The names of trees became street names, too. The town itself was named for Helena Phillips, who was a child of about four or five years at the time that the town was founded.<sup>8</sup> She was a daughter of one of the proprietors, Sylvanus Phillips, for whom the county was named. Helena was given town status in 1833 under the laws of Arkansas Territory. In 1836, the first addition to the town's area was made, New Helena, thereby making the original town, Old Helena. The



first map of New Helena hangs in the Phillips County Museum. City status was granted under state law in 1856.

Town lots were and are small, 66' x 132', 5 to  $\frac{1}{2}$  block, drawn either horizontally or as a horizontal and vertical combination. This made for a compact town with relatively small yards, as it turned out, and one of the few town holdings known to be of any real size was the General Tappan home and grounds on Poplar Street. A picture of this property, made from the vantage point of Fort Curtis, is still in existence. The house was built about 1857. Generally, houses in Helena were close together, as many old photographs show.

In the early business district on Front and Ohio Streets, the newspaper advertisements of that day lead one to believe that many of the stores were "shot-gun" buildings, with the bottom floor of a building perhaps housing two or three establishments. Businesses came and went almost monthly, changing partners as rapidly. It took little to start a business, and little to stop one. Front Row and Commercial Row, which were parts of the business areas on Ohio and Front, were probably just that, a series of small, shotgun, impermanent business establishments, one after another, in mid-19th century.

As early as 1836, complaints were made that the growth and prosperity of Helena had been seriously thwarted by the unavailability of building lots, because many of the lots were held by minor heirs of Sylvanus Phillips, causing legal entanglements precluding purchase. Merchants and householders hesitated to build good buildings on rented property.<sup>9</sup> It was many years after the founding of Helena before a large parcel of the town lots passed out of the hands of the Phillips family, and in reading land ownership documents, it is

apparent that a quantity of lots were still theirs, probably undeveloped, as late as the Civil War and perhaps later.

The map plan of Old Helena has been followed in almost all important respects, with the exceptions of developing the mapped Public Square and of opening and developing the two diagonal streets, State and McMicle (or McMichael). The two proposed thoroughfares were designed to lead from the southwest and southeast corners of the town to the proposed Public Square in the north part of town. The Dedication of the Town of Helena to the Public provided for the buildings of the seat of county government to be at the Public Square in the north part of town, though this was never their location. Since this site did not develop to its intended use, the two streets planned had no present or future purpose, and effectively destroyed potential town lots. In 1859, by Ordinance 125 of the City of Helena, they were declared abolished, and the heirs of the proprietors claimed reversionary title to the land, and agreed to relinquish it to the City for  $\frac{1}{2}$  net proceeds of the sale of the land involved.<sup>10</sup> The small part of State Street near the river was given as a business location in a few newspaper advertisements prior to 1859,<sup>11</sup> so the street may have been located as a street for a few blocks.

Many of the platted streets were not opened up for public use until Civil War times or later,<sup>12</sup> and it was probably the 1870s. or later than that before the town looked like the map said it would in regard to its streets. Since many of the streets for a long period could not be distinguished from other property, it is not too hard to understand that these same streets were used for purposes that would be incomprehensible now. Both the 1820 Dedication and the two Ordinances, one of 1866 and one of 1867,<sup>13</sup> state terms for regulating crops



grown inside the Town and City, and the Dedication specifically refers to crops in the streets. An Ordinance of 1851 or 1852<sup>14</sup> made rules concerning burying the dead in streets and in private grounds, and there are references in early Helena newspapers to the offense felt by many citizens at seeing graves in alleys and streets of Helena.

In spite of early plans by the proprietors, in spite of the river's seasonal overflows, the town grew right on the river's edge, and the river was the main reason for the town's creation. As late as the early part of this century, Ohio Street was still the best and the main street for both businesses and residences. Front Street, named on the map as Water Street, but rarely called that, also was a business street, but its buildings on the south end were either destroyed or placed in such jeopardy by the cavings of the riverbank in 1866 and 1867, that many of them were moved.<sup>15</sup>

The question arises of why such a site was ever thought to be advantageous. This can be explained in several ways. Helena was really a river crossroads, with the nearby St. Francis leading inland, the Mississippi taking traffic north and south, and waterways on the Mississippi side allowing it, at that time, to be penetrated. Helena's unique position on the Arkansas side of the river as the only place in the state's whole north/south length with protective hills (Crowley's Ridge) running nearly to the river's edge, was of distinct advantage. This did not help the easternmost five blocks of Old Helena, but it did protect Old Helena west of the ridge, and the farmland west of there.

The editor of the CONSTITUTIONAL JOURNAL of Helena, in the May 12, 1836, issue, expressed a view that was reiterated in the years to come, that no place on the river could be made as safe with levees as here. The proprietors may have had this same thought. In the same paper, issue of April 6,

1837, the editor wrote that Helena was the only place on the Mississippi River for a long distance that could be reached from the interior on high and dry roads. A good description of the highlands west from Helena--not Crowley's Ridge-- is available.<sup>16</sup> The potential of this highlands approach was doubtless known to Sylvanus Phillips since, as a very early settler, he would be quite knowledgeable of the local terrain.

Old Helena was so much of a river town that water from whatever sources, front or backwater, was endured in the bottom floors of houses, churches, and buildings,<sup>17</sup> until levee districts were formed in the 19th century, and the United States finally gave its great aid in the 19th and 20th centuries to make life at water's edge a more secure thing with proper and substantial levees. Though the two diagonal streets are gone, and though most of Front Street is either in the river or under the levee, and though steamboats are not able to land at the foot of Porter or Rightor Streets anymore, the plan of Old Helena has not radically changed. The houses that are perhaps the two oldest buildings in Old Helena, the Barlow and McKenzie houses, are located on Ohio Street, where the river shocks were the worst.

It is interesting that a latterday trek was made to the ridge through town when the 1869 Courthouse was built on the hill of the present day Solomon Playground, but the magnet of downtown and riverfront acted again to place the 1915 Courthouse on Cherry Street.

The prime residential areas finally left the river and developed in other parts of town, as old neighborhoods declined, though lovely houses still remain today in Old Helena. The business district only moved back a street or two, and the main street is only one street removed from Main Street of 100



years ago. One reason that Ohio Street lost its prominence to Cherry Street was the fact that the ever growing levee, with its broad base, used up some of the east side of the Ohio Street lots, making Cherry Street the first street near the river which had full depth blocks on both sides of the street.

There are many "2 site lots," some "3 site lots," and perhaps even a few "4 site lots" in Helena, that is, lot sites which have had that many consecutive structures on them. An example of a 4 site lot is #326 (combined with Lot #382) where the 1st Baptist Church stands. The map of Old Helena shows Phillips' house here. Fort Curtis came next as shown on Civil War maps, the Wooten and Fitzpatrick homes are of modern memory, and now the church stands there. This might be called a 5 site lot if one counts the cross in the Pacaha Legend. Safeway Store stands on at least a 3 site lot. Early newspapers advertised Professor Russell's school here, then came Jefferson School, now Safeway.

Examples of other lots which have been used more than once are in what was called West Helena--over the ridge--near the intersection of McDonough and Beech Streets. It is known that houses were there in the 1870s that are not the present homes, for example, 804, 806, 810 McDonough Street held the Sanders and Linthicum homes, 916 Beech held the Brennan home, and 929 Beech held an earlier Ready home. The Taylor home, 928 Beech, and the Miller rental house, 906 Beech, are houses of the 1860s and 1870s, and the Waggener house at 821 McDonough is at least an 1890s house and maybe earlier.<sup>18</sup> So settlement was in the far reaches of Old Helena at an early date, and the General Tappan home of the late 1850s takes the history of homes here further back in time.

With some exceptions, flamboyance and

ostentation have not been characteristics of housebuilding in Helena. Helena was generally a place of houses built for town living, utilitarian, close together.

Helena's historical significance is in many ways a sectional significance, and it derives in great part from the fact that the town was for many years the only settlement of any size in eastern Arkansas, and from the fact of its comparative age as an Arkansas town. It has been a many sided focal point in this part of the state.

When Phillips County was created by an act of the Territorial Legislature in 1820, Monticello was named its county seat. This was the projected name for the settlement which became Helena, a change in town name being made almost immediately, as the original map of Helena is dated December, 1820. The Helena area, if not the Helena site, had also been referred to as St. Francis. (Old Helena is still in St. Francis Township.) The early legislators from here were listed as from St. Francis. Beginning June 23, 1821, the ARKANSAS GAZETTE started referring to the two local legislators as being from Helena, so the name St. Francis was discarded as a village name in Phillips County, if it had been that. The beginning records of Phillips County show that Helena was always the county seat.<sup>19</sup>

Sectional importance was apparent from earliest days. The State Bank and Real Estate Bank were started about the same time, and one of the four branches of the latter was placed at Helena in 1838. Establishment of the Real Estate Bank in Arkansas was an unhappy story from beginning to end. Its enemies said that it was started for the benefit of large landowners in this part of the state, making it easy for them to borrow money. Following the dissolution in a few years of both banks, banking in Arkansas was handled by a few



merchants who bought and sold exchange on out of state banks, mainly those of New Orleans. Nearly one half of this group were Helena merchants.<sup>20</sup>

To handle the sale of government land, land offices were established at selected places in the state. The one at Helena was in existence in 1834, and by June, 1836, 610,000 acres had been sold in the Helena District.<sup>21</sup> Easy and generous government policies in land disbursement attracted many immigrants, some of whom had already accumulated wealth.<sup>22</sup> The immigration helped the town considerably, and following the establishment of the Land Office and the sale of the vast acreage through its agency, value of Helena lots rose tremendously, from \$60-100 to \$1,000-1,500.<sup>23</sup> As one editor put it, value of Helena property had increased ten times in three years.<sup>24</sup> Though a few of the landowners in the latter part of the 19th century lived in town, during most of the century their sometimes substantial dwellings were in the country.

Sectional jealousy in Arkansas has been mentioned in many articles, including local newspapers.<sup>25</sup> But the jealousy between town and country, as between Helena residents and county residents, is rather harder to understand. It was remarked in newspapers and other places that the planters had no pride in the town and no care about sustaining it.<sup>26</sup> Over twenty years before these observations, the CONSTITUTIONAL JOURNAL had said that the county and town were arrayed against each other, to the point where it was suggested that the county seat be put elsewhere.<sup>27</sup> This continuing disenchantment between town and country was still going on in 1869 when the argument broke out over who was to be taxed to pay for the new Courthouse.<sup>28</sup>

But there had been an interim period when what little comfort the nearness of Helena was able to provide, was eagerly sought by those in the

surrounding countryside, and this was during the period of the Civil War. The occupying Federal Army had been at Helena almost exactly a year when the Battle of Helena was fought on July 4, 1863. During this year and for sometime afterward, people of outlying areas knew what it meant to be cut off from all store bought supplies, from war news, from the comfort of other people, from many necessities, and to be dependent upon Federal passes through the lines to get into town. Probably the lack of proximity to other people was the hardest to take, for though Helenians were in an unenviable position under the occupying army, they at least found some solace in their numbers. Passes were eagerly sought and hardly given.

Helena, after being taken by the Union Army on July 12, 1862, became a supply depot for the Union attempt to capture Vicksburg. It was of major importance as a possible place from which to attack Little Rock and as a center of control of the eastern part of Arkansas. The activity on the river here was tremendous during these years. The battle that occurred at Helena on the 4th of July, 1863, was planned by the Confederates in part to weaken the Union effort at Vicksburg, but the attempt was unsuccessful and the battle was lost. Vicksburg fell on the same day as the Confederate defeat at Helena.

Another attempt to take Vicksburg before the decisive battle, was made in the late winter and early spring of 1863 by the Union Navy. General Grant sent an officer from his staff to look into the possibility of opening a way through Yazoo Pass on the Mississippi side of the river a few miles below Helena.<sup>29</sup> This was the unsuccessful Yazoo Pass Expedition in which the Union Navy tried to flank Vicksburg by way of the Coldwater, Tallahatchie, and Yazoo Rivers.



On arrival here in July, 1862, the Union Army, with military and local aid, built Fort Curtis. Its location in the middle of town was the same site selected as most desirable by one of the two founding proprietors, Sylvanus Phillips, and his own house had been located there. It is drawn in on the original map of Helena. Whether it was still standing when Fort Curtis was started is not known. The old story about the Phillips, often appearing in local chronicles, is that Sylvanus and Helena Phillips, father and daughter, were buried on the slope of this hill, having died within a year's time of one another. This is where the 1st Baptist Church stands today.

This property belonged to Mrs. Caroline Phillips Hanly, daughter and sole remaining child of Sylvanus Phillips in Helena or perhaps, anywhere, and it was taken from her for a number of years, apparently without any payment for use. The Union forces gave some receipts for goods taken locally, but they were not honored.<sup>30</sup> Judge and Mrs. Hanly were Confederate sympathizers,<sup>31</sup> consequently they were not in a position to institute a suit against the United States for payment of this use of their property. The Fort used part of the Hanly property until 1874, when it was finally destroyed completely in moving dirt to fix the streets.<sup>32</sup> After this, Mrs. Hanly sold off the lots for building sites, and several very lovely homes were built on Franklin and Porter Streets.

Contrary to prevailing opinion, Helena was far from being an undivided place of Confederate sympathy. With some exceptions, such as the Hanlys, those in Phillips County who had the most to lose in material wealth, were Union adherents. This is obvious from so many allusions made in the papers after the war, and from the number of suits filed against the United States. To the present day, it is thought that Helena men all marched out in gray

with the Phillips Guards, the Yell Rifles, or other Confederate outfits. There were many who served in Union regiments and some of the Union companies, both black and white, were raised at Helena. After the war, Union sentiment made it possible for several officers of the Union Army to settle here temporarily and permanently.

Helena, with its high ridge and surrounding hills, was a place of easy fortification, and the Confederates under General Holmes found this out on the morning of July 4, 1863. They unsuccessfully attacked a place where United States troops were so firmly ensconced, that the officers were living in the best houses (headquarters house was that of General Hindman), and fairly permanent and comfortable living quarters had been erected in the camping area south of town and miles out the Little Rock Road west from Helena. Some of the drill-grounds were in town near the Fort, and the military kept Helenians awake and aware by firing the guns in the Fort regularly. In spite of all this, there were dances attended by the local citizens and the military shortly after the war.<sup>33</sup>

The war took its toll on Helena as in other places, and the next few years were spent in returning to a more normal way of life, getting church buildings back from the Union Army, starting up new schools, and trying to brighten the dismal economic picture which was one of abject want for some. It was but a few years before Helena was caught up in the railroad building mania, which threatened to eclipse the river transportation that had been Helena's lifeline from earliest days. This competition was all the hardwood lumber industry needed, and with the magnificent timber supply of Phillips County, in the heart of the timber belt, the industry burgeoned to the point of lining the river in Helena and south of it with one mill after another. Perhaps this was not such a



novel situation after all, for the first sawmill powered by steam instead of water in the state of Arkansas was constructed here in 1826, just north of the town border of Helena.<sup>34</sup>

Riverport history at the site of Helena started in 1800 or 1802, when old chronicles of Helena say that William Patterson had a crude building at river's edge for use as a warehouse to store provisions for barge shipping. This was the beginning. How many years have passed since then and how much river history has transpired since then. The barges, keelboats, gunboats, steamboats, towboats for pushing barges--all parts of this history in the ups and downs of river prosperity.

People on the banks viewed steamboats from earliest days, before the famous and lethal explosion of the GENERAL BROWN at Helena in 1838, or the firing of the MARTHA WASHINGTON near Helena in 1852 for insurance purposes. The excitement of river doings as portrayed in the writings of Mark Twain and others was all there in the race between the ROBERT E. LEE and the NATCHEZ, and all one had to do was to get up on the small levee and watch.<sup>35</sup>

Steamboats brought a communication and exposure to the outside world that did not prevail in other places. This was reflected in so many ways, especially in the desire to have nationally known artists, actors, musicians, and speakers appear in a series of opera houses here, the current one being the Fine Arts Center at Phillips County Community College, with the endowment of the Warfield legacy for musical productions.

Helena was touched by steamboat lines of Memphis, St. Louis, and Cincinnati, and the day of steamboats extended into the present century reaching an apogee with the KATE ADAMS steamers. Boats on the river have brought visiting national

celebrities and many a naval ship contingent has been royally received at social events. The setting for some of these affairs was Library Hall, directed by what has been called the oldest library organization in Arkansas,<sup>36</sup> having what is thought to be the oldest library building in the state.

Though railroad success caused a temporary decline of river shipping, World War I needs revived it, partly through the agency of the Federal Barge Lines. Helena now ranks 4th as a Mississippi Riverport, and it is doubtful if a decline of any significance will occur in the river shipping industry any time in the foreseeable future. Looking south from Helena one sees the bridge over the river, built in 1961, and the only span between Memphis and Greenville. Local citizens worked as hard to get it as did those back in the 1830s who bent every effort to get that first good road from Helena to White River and on to Little Rock.

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#### FOOTNOTES

<sup>1</sup>Fred W. Allsopp, FOLKLORE OF ROMANTIC ARKANSAS (The Grolier Society, 1931), I, 114-120.

<sup>2</sup>PHILLIPS COUNTY, Spanish Grant survey book. UNITED STATES, Records of General Land Office, Department of Interior, in National Archives.

<sup>3</sup>AMERICAN STATE PAPERS: Documents, Legislative and Executive of the Congress of the United States 1789-1815: Class VIII, PUBLIC LANDS (Gale & Seaton, 1832), III, 316.

<sup>4</sup>Dorothy James (ed.), "Dedication of Old



Helena," PHILLIPS COUNTY HISTORICAL QUARTERLY, I (Summer, 1962), 7-17.

<sup>5</sup>Spanish Grant survey book, Claim #2295. This information is repeated in descriptive material of P. S. #2388 from same book, under line "N 84 W."

<sup>6</sup>James (ed.), "Dedication."

<sup>7</sup>Josiah H. Shinn, PIONEERS AND MAKERS OF ARKANSAS (Little Rock: Democrat Printing & Lithographing Co., 1908), 119-120. PHILLIPS COUNTY, RECORD BOOK A, 208.

<sup>8</sup>ARKANSAS GAZETTE, September 14, 1831.

<sup>9</sup>CONSTITUTIONAL JOURNAL, Helena, Arkansas, May 26, 1836.

<sup>10</sup>CITY OF HELENA, ORDINANCE BOOK I, 1842-1867.

<sup>11</sup>CONSTITUTIONAL JOURNAL, March 17, 1836. SOUTHERN SHIELD, Helena, Arkansas, issues of January 9, 1847; May 11, 1853; October 2, 1858.

<sup>12</sup>ORDINANCE BOOK I: Ordinance #166, June 22, 1859, part of Elm Street; Ordinance #276, November 2, 1866, part of Walker Street. SOUTHERN SHIELD, June 27, 1857, part of Porter Street. HELENA CLARION, November 30, 1870, part of Walker Street.

<sup>13</sup>ORDINANCE BOOK I: Ordinance #273, September 10, 1866; Ordinance #280, January 3, 1867.

<sup>14</sup>ORDINANCE BOOK I, 77.

<sup>15</sup>DIARIES OF JAMES M. HANKS, 1865-1909. HELENA CLARION, January 28, 1871.

<sup>16</sup>Clarence E. Carter (ed. & comp.), THE TERRITORIAL PAPERS OF THE UNITED STATES, XXI, THE TERRITORY OF ARKANSAS 1829-1836 (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1954), 499-500.

<sup>17</sup>"Western Clarion," PHILLIPS COUNTY HISTORICAL QUARTERLY, X (March, 1972), 1-7.

<sup>18</sup>Abstracts of property located at 804, 806, 810, and 821 McDonough Street, 928 Beech Street, and conversations with older citizens.

<sup>19</sup>PHILLIPS COUNTY, Circuit Court RECORD BOOK A.

<sup>20</sup>David Y. Thomas (ed.), ARKANSAS AND ITS PEOPLE: A HISTORY, 1541-1930, (New York: The American Historical Society, Inc., 1930), II, 452.

<sup>21</sup>CONSTITUTIONAL JOURNAL, issues of March 8, 1836 and June 23, 1836.

<sup>22</sup>IBID., issues of May 26, 1836 and November 24, 1836.

<sup>23</sup>IBID., Issues of June 23, 1836 and November 24, 1836.

<sup>24</sup>IBID., April 6, 1837.

<sup>25</sup>IBID., June 2, 1836.

<sup>26</sup>"Excerpts From the Diaries and Letters of the Reverend Otis Hackett," PHILLIPS COUNTY HISTORICAL QUARTERLY, I (Summer, 1962), 29.

<sup>27</sup>CONSTITUTIONAL JOURNAL, August 25, 1836.

<sup>28</sup>HELENA CLARION, March 10, 1869.

<sup>29</sup>Ulysses S. Grant, PERSONAL MEMOIRS (New York: Charles L. Webster & Co., 1885), I, 450.

<sup>30</sup>HANKS DIARIES.

<sup>31</sup>Ralph Wooster, "The Arkansas Secession Convention," ARKANSAS HISTORICAL QUARTERLY, XIII (Summer, 1954), 182-183.

<sup>32</sup>DAILY INDEPENDENT, Helena, Arkansas, July 31, 1874.



<sup>33</sup>" Western Clarion," PHILLIPS COUNTY  
HISTORICAL QUARTERLY, X (March, 1972), 4-5.

<sup>34</sup>Dallas T. Herndon (ed.), ANNALS OF  
ARKANSAS 1947 (Little Rock: Historical Record  
Association, 1947), I, 343. Set of drawings by  
Dorothy James in PHILLIPS COUNTY HISTORICAL  
QUARTERLY, III (December, 1964).

<sup>35</sup>HANKS DIARIES.

<sup>36</sup>David Y. Thomas, 585.

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SURVEYED CLAIM NO. 2388

TOWNSHIP 2 SOUTH

RANGE 5 EAST

PHILLIPS COUNTY  
(Private Survey)

For William Russell, who claims the right of  
Patrick Cassidy 640 Acres of land Situated  
on the Western Shore of the Mississippi River  
In Township No. 2 South Range No. 5 East

Beginning at a temporary post on the Western  
margin of the Mississippi River.

Thence S. 15° W. 34.50 Chs. ( miandering down the  
River)

Thence S. 1° E. At 13.44 Chs. an object East of  
Mississippi River bears S. 82° E.

At 19.44 Chs. the NE corner of Survey of  
Claim No. 2295 of 240 Arpens of William  
Patterson in his own right being a Sycamore  
48 In dia on the margin of the Mississippi  
River from which an elm 22 In dia marked PS  
bears N 79° W. 132 links and a honey locust  
5 In dia marked PS bears S. 79° W 122 links  
and the aforesaid object East of Mississippi  
bears S. 89° 15' E. Land on these miandering  
level, rich, soil, bearing marks of overflow  
more than half the distance from this towards  
the NE corner of this claim, improved with  
fields, buildings &c. timber cottonwood &  
Willows &c. Undergrowth nearly none.

Thence N. 84° W. (leaving houses & fields of con-  
siderable extent to both right & left, and  
running with the line of Wm Pattersons claim  
No. 2295 of 240 Arpens.

At 22.38 Chs. a brook 18 links wide runs South

At 36.00 Chs. entered hills

At 36.82 Chs. a beach 12 In dia

At 49.35 Chs. the NW post corner of Claim



No. 2295 of Arpens of William Patterson in his own right from which a B. Gum 6 In dia bears S. 68° W. 46 links and a dogwood 6 In dia marked PS bears N. 31° E. 27 links first 36.00 Chs. on this line level bottom rich soil, bearing marks of overflow last 13.00 Chs. broken hills 2d rate soil timber on this line S. Gum, Cypress, oak, hickory, poplar &c. Undergrowth dogwood & other shrubs briars vines &c.

Thence S. 6° W. (with the Western boundary line of said claim No. 2295 of 240 Arpens of William Patterson  
At 12.23 Chs. a brook 7 links wide, runs NE.  
At 14.65 Chs. a W. Oak 38 In dia  
At 40.50 Chs. the SW post corner of said claim No. 2295 of William Patterson from which a beech 6 In dia bears N. 29° W. 22 links and a double beech 9 In dia marked PS bears N. 29° 45 W 66 links Land on this line broken hills this soil timber oak hickory, poplar beach &c. Undergrowth dogwood small cane vines &c.

Thence N. 84° W. At 24.68 Chs. a B. Oak 23 In dia.  
At 28.00 Chs. a double W. Oak 20 In dia.  
At 40.10 Set post corner from which a dogwood 4 In dia marked PS bears N 81° 20' E. 16 links and a W. Oak 26 In dia bears S. 74° W. 4 links.  
Land on this line broken hills 2d rate soil timber B. Oak, W. Oak, hickory &c. Undergrowth Dogwood oak shrubs &c.

Thence N. 6° E. At 17.46 Chs. a poplar 34 In dia  
At 54.67 Chs. a W. Oak 52 In dia  
At 60.18 Chs. a brook 6 links wide runs East  
At 75.48 Chs. a brook 4 links wide runs SE  
At 80.00 Chs. entered herican & fallen timber bears NE & SW

At 83.50 Chs. a S. Gum 10 In dia  
At 93.84 Chs. Set post corner from which a Maple 6 In dia bears N 1° E.  
49 links and a W. Oak 14 In dia marked PS. bears S. 16° E. 104 links.  
Land on this line broken hills 2d rate soil timber Oak hickory poplar &c.  
Undergrowth small cane briars vines dogwood and other shrubs &c.

Thence S. 84° E. At 10.50 Chs. left herican  
At 28.20 Chs. a W. Oak 24 In. dia.  
At 31.25 Chs. a brook 10 links wide runs S. 30° E.  
At 59.21 Chs. an Ash 26 In dia foot of hills  
At 60.00 Chs. entered Mississippi bottom  
At 61.10 Chs. a Cypress pond 200 links wide bears N & S.  
At 92.78 Chs. intersected the line of beginning 10 links South of the beginning temporary post at a Sycamore 9 In dia from which a Sycamore 13 In dia bears N. 5° W. 48 links and a Sycamore 14 In dia bears S. 20° W. 22 links Land on the first 60.00 Chs of this broken hills 2d rate soil Timber W. Oak B Oak hickory poplar &c. Undergrowth Dogwood Oak & hickory shrubs small cane vines &c.  
The last 33.00 chs level bottom, rich soil, with marks of overflow timber S. Gum Ash Cypress Cottonwood &c. Undergrowth pawpaw briars, vines &c.

Surveyed February 11th & 12th 1816 and the following connection with Sectional lines (which had not been run at the time of the Survey) made the 12th October 1817 and corners established at the intersections to-wit:

I begin at the S.W. corner of this survey of claim No. 2388 of 640 Acres of William Russell claiming right of Pat Cassidy and run

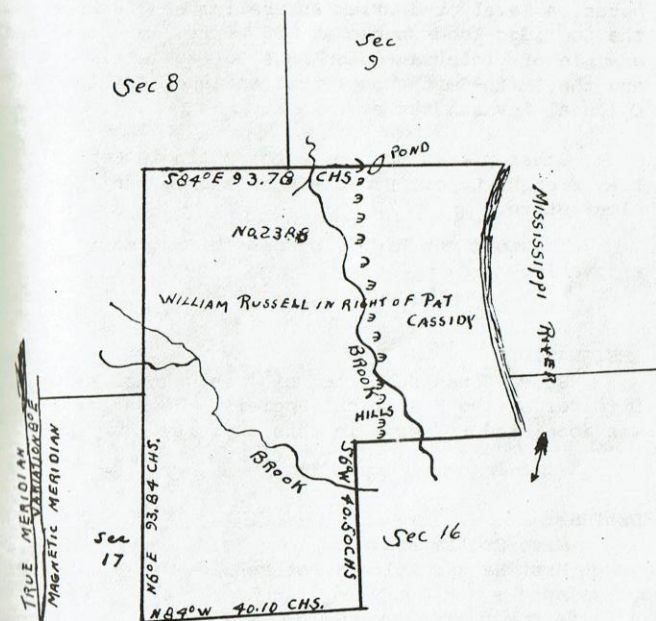


Thence N. 60°E. (with the Western boundary of Said Claim, and  
 At 37.57 Chs. intersected the East and West line between Secs. 8 & 17 T. 2 S. R. 5 E.  
 30.70 Chs. East of the Sect. corner of Secs. 7, 8, 17 & 18 T. 2 S. R. 5 E. where set post corner of fracl. Secs. 8 & 17 T. 2 S. R. 5 E. from which a W. Oak 18 In dia 87 links dist. bears N. 21.45W. and a poplar 24 In dia bears S. 44.45 E. 49 links.

Wm. Russell D. S.

CLAIM NO. 2388  
 TOWNSHIP 2 SOUTH RANGE 5 EAST

PHILLIPS COUNTY  
 ( Private Survey )





# NOTES

## TOUR

The Historic Helena Tour was held Saturday and Sunday, May 2nd and 3rd. Four houses were on the tour. These included Tappan-Beauchamp Edwardian cottage at 804 Columbia, the Moore-Hornor house, a lovely red brick Antebellum at 323 Beech, the Coolidge-Woods house at 820 Perry, an excellent example of Victorian Queen Anne Cottage styling and the Smith-Smith house, 205 Oakland, Spanish Colonial Revival style.

Other places open were the Illinois Central R.R. Freight Depot, Habib's, the Museum, and the Almer Store.

The tour was highly successful and most enjoyable.

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## RESIGNATION

Steve Jones submitted his resignation as a Director of the Historical Society. Jesse Porter was appointed to serve in this capacity.

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## DEATHS

Miss Stella Brown  
Mrs. Hannah Solomon Rothschild

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## DUES

Membership dues are payable May 1, 1981.

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March, 1981

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The Phillips County Historical Society

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Meetings are held in September, January, April, and June, on the fourth Sunday in the month, at 3:00 P. M. at the Phillips County Museum.

The Phillips County Historical Society supplies the Quarterly to its members. Membership is open to anyone interested in Phillips County history. Annual membership dues are \$5.00 for a regular membership and \$10.00 for a sustaining membership. Single copies of the QUARTERLY are \$1.25. QUARTERLIES are mailed to members. Dues are payable to Mrs. C. M. T. Kirkman, Treasurer, 806 McDonough Street, Helena, Arkansas 72342.

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