



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

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

Glade Post Office & Store, circa 1890

2020 NEWSLETTER #1

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

Welcome to 2020 and the beginning of 12 months of information to add to our collective Glade Community Historical Society story. Let 2020 bring many wonderful memories filled with love, laughter and joy. Our first general meeting is set for February 2, 3 pm, at the Lost Bridge Village Community Hall, 12477 Lodge Drive, Garfield, AR. In addition to our regular meeting agenda and refreshments; Mr. John Rainone, 'The Piano Man', will provide some fun and musical entertainment. Don't worry, all you Super Bowl fans will be able to make it home in plenty of time for the 6:30 pm kickoff. **A quick reminder. . .don't forget to pay your \$25 annual dues to Sam Reynolds, either at the meeting or by mailing to Sam at 20916 Slate Gap Rd. Garfield, Arkansas 72732.**

Isolation, poverty, and rough trails, caused slow development of the Ozark's in the early 1800's. First, the fertile valleys were claimed, but the remaining narrow valleys offered fewer farming opportunities. Long before the Civil War, Native American tribes had been displaced from their homelands and the government treaties pushed them farther westward. Through those years, as the Indians were driven from their homes westward, more land became available and white settlers were encouraged to spread into the remote interior. Arkansas became a state in 1836 and people moved further inland. The area was remote, lawless and

unorganized, and vigilante committees formed in the 1840's. One such group in Benton County was the Slickers, who congregated to "slick" all suspected law breakers with hickory switches. By 1840, the Cherokee Nation had traversed the Trail of Tears. The Civil War occurred during the 1860's and caused many people to be driven from their homes. Some people lost everything. In, 1871, Congress ended all formal treaty-making with Indians and no longer recognized them as sovereign.

Rebuilding after the war was a difficult process and some settlers moved farther west. Reconstruction after the war brought rapid railroad construction to the cities, but the farms remained isolated and each community built its own school. Education in the smaller Ozark communities lagged behind the cities, so their school terms were shorter because of poor funding in the rural communities. Benton County country schools provided education for generations of children in one room schools. The school term generally ranged from five to seven months a year.

Billie Jines was a marvelous historian of Benton County schools. In Volume 1 of Benton County Schools That Were, she wrote of those one room schools. Pumpkin Center School District was one. It was designated school district No. 126 in 1889 and Benton County took six sections of land from the Coal Gap District to establish the Pumpkin Center School District. White River curved around and either cut through or touched a corner of all six sections. GCHS's Chairman Pat Heck's grandfather Harmon Williams and Thomas Morrison's property lay within the Pumpkin Center District.

The little Pumpkin Center schoolhouse was built on the land of Bryant Royster, which was across the White River from Coal Gap School. It stood about one-half of a quarter mile from the White River historic Knox Ferry. Children from both sides of the river could reach both schoolhouses, but those on the Coal Gap side had to walk 2 or 3 miles to get to the ferry. Bryant Royster married Ibb Edens (15), and they had 12 children.

Mr. Royster built the Knox Ferry, but he could not spare the time to get people across the river, so he made arrangements with his neighbor, Mr. J. M. Knox'. 'Old Man Knox' ran the ferry, thus it was called Knox Ferry.

School funds were scarce, and the county court announced that there were 112 school-aged children in the Coal Gap District before establishing Pumpkin Center. Pumpkin Center district contained 54 children, so money was taken from Coal Gap and given to Pumpkin Center to start its school. Ages 6 to 21 were included in the school count but not all of those ages attended. Glade students could repeat grades because no high school was near, and repetition provided a better education. Not all selected to repeat. Some chose to farm or start families.

The schoolhouse was built with donated materials and volunteer labor. Fresh oak boards were nailed as close together as possible, with a narrower strip nailed down on one side of the spot where the wider boards came together to shrink as they dried and make the building more secure. When a school dissolved, its district number was given to another school, so there is no recorded number for Pumpkin Center School today.

During the 11 years it operated, directors were elected and some children from the Coal Gap side attended Pumpkin Center School. In 1900 the Pumpkin Center School District No. 126 was dissolved. The court gave the western part of the district to Coal Gap District, and the eastern part to School District No. 68 in Carroll County (Mundell). Today, much of the land of Pumpkin Center School District is covered by Beaver Lake. The old building still served the community for some years after it ceased to be a schoolhouse and was used as a church and for community gatherings.

Coal Gap School still stands, and today is privately owned. The school dissolved in 1949 when students were annexed to Garfield District No. 114 and older students attended Rogers School District No. 30. Today, Coal Gap School stands several yards from the Glade Museum. The museum

was established, and is maintained by the Glade Community Historical Society, Inc.

Your Glade Community Historical Society Board of Directors, Patricia Heck, President; Sam Reynolds, Treasurer; Judi Walter, Secretary; and board members Ruth Billingsley, Dorothy Williams, Larry Hanner and Don Berndt, Communications.