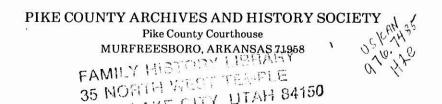
Early History of Pike County, Arkansas

The First One Hundred Years

Compiled and Published by Pike County Heritage Club



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EARLY HISTORY

Historical Development of Pike County

Pike County was created by Act of the Arkansas Territorial Legislature, the action being approved November 1, 1933. Thus, Pike County was one of the original counties when Arkansas became a State in 1836. On December 9, 1837, by act of the State Legislature, Murfreesboro was made the permanent county seat and the county lines were established. The first clerk's office, which was erected of logs, was burned and all county records were destroyed in the Spring of 1855. A two-story frame courthouse was built in 1856, which was totally destroyed by fire on the night of March 9, 1885, when all the county records were again destroyed.

Tax receipts issued for the year 1893 were recorded in a record which was preserved, and are the earliest tax records in existence for Pike County. Many of the deeds were re-recorded.

Pike County lines have been defined by Acts of the Arkansas Legislature as follows:

> Between Pike and Sevier — November 15, 1833 Between Pike and Hempstead — December 14, 1838 Between Pike and Howard — April 14, 1875 Between Pike and Clark — April 25, 1873 Between Pike and Montgomery — December 16, 1874.

On July 4, 1819, Arkansas began its separate existence under the name of Arkansas Territory. Congress declared that on that date all that part of the Missouri Territory lying south of a line beginning on the Mississippi River to 36 degrees north, running west to St. Francis River, thence to western territorial line of Missouri should be separate territory. This took place March 2, 1819. The seat of government was to be at Arkansas Post. President Monroe appointed General James Miller of New Hampshire as governor. The capitol was moved to Little Rock in 1821.

One of the most important issues of the day was the sale of public lands and this was started in 1815 and two million acres of land was surveyed and set apart for the soldiers of the War of 1812. None of these lands were sold, but each soldier was given a warrant and the land department located it by a lottery process. Thus the new territory of Arkansas from the start was populated with the heroes of the War of 1812—men of courage and ability.

After the Territorial Legislature passed on the organization of Pike County November 1, 1833, Elijah Kelly and Henry Brewer were appointed as commissioners to find a seat of justice for the newly appointed county. Asa Thompson was the only man living in the vicinity at the time and a post office had been set up in his home and given the name of Zebulon. In searching old deeds, it is assumed he had property close to where the Floyd-Pickett house now stands. A log courthouse was quickly built, with a small frame house for the clerk's office. The clerk was D. S. Dickson from 1833-48. Zebulon at that time was no more than a settlement hacked out of the wilderness by a few hardy pioneers looking for a new frontier. In 1836 the name Zebulon was changed to Murfreesborough (later Murfreesboro) and has remained the county seat until this day. Legend has it that many of the new settlers were from Tennessee and named their town after Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

Pike County was originally a part of Hempstead and Clark counties, both formed in 1818 by the legislature of Missouri. On December 31, 1813, two new counties were created, New Madrid and Arkansas. The first included the north-western angle of Arkansas county, and Pike from these two. Pike was the twentysixth county formed in Arkansas out of seventy-five.

In 1833 there were three settlements in Pike County: Wolf Creek, east, which is now Delight; the Brewer settlement on Muddy Fork, west; and a few families living at the place which was selected as the county seat, known later as Zebulon, then changed to Murfreesborough.

Some of the early families living in Pike County before 1830 were Asa Thompson, Joseph Davis, Jeremiah Davis, John Hughes,

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Oliver Brewer Sr., Henry Brewer, Gabrill Oliver, John White, George Hensley, David Dickson, David Huddleston, John Blocker, William Stone, the Kelleys (Elijah and William), Isaac White, and Pascal Sorrells.

The early land entry books were destroyed by fire so it is impossible to give a list of all the earliest settlers.

Some of the earlier towns of Pike County were Stellville (post office, Wolf Creek), Royston, Nathan Village (western part of Muddy Fork Township), Bills Town, Rock Creek, Gentry (near Self Creek Township), New Hope and Star of the West.

Pike County is situated in the southwestern part of Arkansas. It is bounded on the north by Montgomery, on the east by Clark, on the south by Nevada and Hempstead, and west by Howard counties. It has an area of 620 square miles. The northern and central portions are quite mountainous. Between these hills are beautiful fertile valleys. The southern part is level and has much bottom land as it lies along the larger streams. The largest and most important stream is the Little Missouri River which rises in Polk County, enters Pike in the northwestern corner, flows southeast, and after forming a portion of the southern boundary line leaves the county at its southeastern corner. Antoine Creek is formed by three small streams in the northeastern part of the county and flows south forming a portion of the county's eastern boundary and empties into the Little Missouri River at the southeastern part of the county. Saline Creek rises near the central part ci the county, flows south about fifteen miles and empties into the Little Missouri. Wolf Creek rises near the central part of the county, flows southeast and empties into the Antoine Creek. Rock Creek rises in the northern part of the county, flows eastward and empties into the Caddo. The Caddo River flows for a short distance through the northeastern part of the county. The Muddy Fork of the Little Missouri River rises in Howard County, flowing east into the Clear Creek which flows into the Little Missouri near Murfreesboro. The Woodall Creek rises near the center of the county, flows northeast and empties into Antoine Creek. Prairie Creek runs through Murfreesboro and empties into the Little Missouri River at the southeastern part of the county.

Pike County is good for farming, though the northern portion is hilly, broken and rough. Other parts of the county have a good sandy soil, running into sandy loam with clay subsoil, called

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redlands, which is so productive. These lands are easily cultivated and cotton was the principal crop for many years. The average yield for bottom land was 1,400 pounds and the uplands 800 pounds per acre. Almost everything that is needed for the home can be raised here. Timber grows in abundance, with the most valuable of these being the short leaf pine. Timber at first covered about three quarters of the area of Pike County. Other varieties existent other than pine are hickory, oak, walnut, maple, ash, sycamore, and red gum.

PIKE COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES AND SENATORS

REPRESENTATIVES

Asa Thompson	1836-38	W. N. Deaton	1909			
John Wilson	1840	George W. Clingan	1911			
William Bizzell	1842-43	Joel T. Pollard	1913			
Elijah Kelley	1846	Joel T. Pollard	1915			
William Gilmer	1848-51	C. A. Rankin	1917			
Samuel Kelley	1852-53	F. F. Carter	1919			
W. B. Gould	1854-55	Grady Alexander	1921			
Elijah Kelley	1856-57	Grady Alexander	1922-23			
Gideon Mason	1858-59	Claude A. Rankin	1925			
Willis Jones	1860-62	M. E. Tolleson	1927-29			
W. B. Gould	1862	F. B. Clement	1931-33			
M. Stennette	1864-65					
W. B. Gould	1865					
J. A. McCollum	1866-67					
J. R. Bush	1868-69					
John Wagner	1871	SENATORS				
B. D. Brock	1877	James H. Howard	1871-73			
H. W. Carter	1879	O. D. East	1874-77			
J. A. Davis	1881-85	J. P. Copeland	1877-90			
J. B. Copeland	1885	E. B. Kingsworthy	1891-93			
J. P. Dunn	1887-90	J.C. Pennix	1895-97			
M. P. Perrin	1891	Thomas N. Wilson	1899-01			
J. C. Pennix	1893	J. C. Pennix	1903-05			
J. P. Dunn	1895	Edgar Arnold	1907-09			
John C. Hughes	1897	Wm. N. Deaton	1911-13			
Moses K. Brock	1899	George W. Garrett	1915-17			
Moses K. Brock	1901	R. R. Townsend	1919-21			
Thomas W. Roundtree		D. F. McElhannon	1923-25			
William N. Thompson	1905	Claude A. Rankin	1927-29			
Casabianco A. Kizzia	1907	Fletcher McElhannon	1927-29			

PIKE COUNTY .- Murfreesboro, County Seat.

Formed November 1, 1	.833.
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Jule	Judge	Clerk	Shcriff	Treasurer	Coroner	Surveyor	Assessor
1835-1856 1836-1858 1836-1858 1840-1842 1840-1842 1841-1846 1846-1848 1848-1850 1850-1852 1852-1854 1854-1856 1856-1858 1864-1866 1866-1868 1868-1872 1872-1874	W. Sorrels W. Kelly W. Kelly D. Huddleston D. Huddleston William Kelly William Kelly William Kelly Isaac White Isaac White James McDavel _ D. Huddleston D. Huddleston D. Huddleston D. Huddleston 1 E. Kelly R. A. Cox D. Huddleston D. Huddleston D. Huddleston D. Huddleston D. Huddleston D. Huddleston D. Huddleston D. Huddleston	D. S. Dickson D. S. Dickson D. S. Dickson D. S. Dickson D. S. Dickson D. S. Dickson W. H. Preston W. H. Preston W. H. Preston W. H. Preston W. H. Preston W. J. Kelly W. J. Kelly J. H. Howard W. J. Kelly J. H. Howard W. J. Kelly J. H. Howard	Isaac White Isaac White Isaac White Isaac White I. Brewer I. Huddleston I. Huddleston I. Huddleston U. Huddleston W. Gilmer W. Gilmer W. Gilmer W. Gilmer J. M. Davis 1 B. S. Davis B. S. Davis W. J. Reed W. J. Reed	John Hughes II. Kizzia R. Stringer R. Stringer R. Stringer R. Stringer R. Stringer D. Huddleston J. D. Brewer J. D. Brewer J. B. P. Flzy J. B. P. Flzy T. W. McClure 1 John Wagner John Wagner 2. T. C. Straun W. L. Jackson	J. H. Kirkham. Henry Brewer W. T. Atkins B. Scott W. B. Speer W. B. Speer T. J. Conway S. S. Thompson W. Huddleston T. J. Conway C. M. Crawford Benj. Bryant W. J. Thompson W. Huddleston T. J. Straun G. W. Logan C. W. Trapley C. N. Westerman	J. H. Kirkham William Johnson T. Scott J. H. Kirkham William Johnson W. R. McFarlin. James Scott W. R. McFarlin. Cyrus Hubble F. J. McFarlin. Cyrus Hubble F. J. McFarlin. W. R. Smedley 1 J. M. Southerland C. S. Cox J. S. Corbell J. S. Corbell	W. N. McClure G. W. Logan

1-E. Kelley, Judge; J. H. Howard, Clerk; D. Campbell, Treasurer; James Corbell, Coroner and Surveyor, from July, 1865. 2-W. D. Kelly from December, 1870, vice Wagner, resigned November 7. 3-J. M. Southerland from December, 1870. 4-M. W. Hill from June, 1875.

1)ate	Judge	Clerk	Sheriff	Treasurer	Coroner	Surveyor	Assessor
\$78-1580 1	, Huddleston	W. W. Hill .	J. P. Copeland.	J. A. Holland	John Gorman	I. S. Corbell	G. W. Logan
880-1882 1	C. McKetchant	W. B. Thomasson	W. N. McChure	J. A. Holland	John Goman	R. S. Burke 5	G. W. Logan
	. J. Falleson .	W. B. Thomasson	W. N. McClure	J. W. Covington	C. N. Westerman	J. S. Thomasson	J. P. Gosnell
	. B. Stephen	W. B. Thomasson	W. N. McClure	H. F. Fagan	C. N. Westerman	J. S. Thomasson.	J. P. Gosnell
886-1888-1	saac Cooley	J. O. A. Bush	J. P. Gosnel	W. M. Kizzia	D. L. Bowen	I. S. Thomasson.	N. M. McFarland
	N. N. McChne]. O. A. Bush	A. W. Parker	W. M. Kizzia	J. J. Wingfield	I. S. Thomasson.	B. F. Bryant
890.1892 (. W. Threlkeld	J. C. Hughes	O. R. Owens	J. T. Stephens	John M. White	J. S. Thomasson	M. D. Chaney
892-1894,C	. W. Threlkeld	J. C. Hughes	O. B. Owens	W. D. Alford	W. D. Wood	J. S. Thomasson.	M. D. Chaney
891-1896]	C. Warner	J. C. Hughes	O. B. Owens	W. D. Alford	A. A. Stell	J. S. Thomasson.	J. A. Dunson
	N. N. McClure	M. M. Manney	W. N. Kizzia	M. A. Brock	A. A. Stell	J. S. Thomasson.	J. A. Dunson
898-1900 1	. II. Wingfield	M. M. Manney	W. N. Kizzia	M. A. Morris	A. A. Stell	J. S. Thomasson.	M. P. Dean
	. B. Parnell.	C. A. Kizzia	M. D. Chaney.	M. A. Morris	A. A. Stell.	I. S. Thomasson.	M. P. Dean
902-1901 N	. B. Parnell	C. A. Kizzia.	M. D. Chaney	M. A. Morris.	A. A. Allord	J. S. Thomasson	W. J. Davis
904-1906	T, Pollard	Q. H. Lewis	W. E. Branch	M. A. Morris	A. A. Stell	W. T. Herndon	W. H. Dobbins
900-1908 1	1. Pollard	Q. H. Lewis	W. E. Branch	G. W. Chingan	D. M. Pounds	W. T. Herndon.	G. M. Parson
08-1910 1	1. Ponard	Robt. N. Alford	I. B. Rogers	G. W. Chingan	W. D. Alsobrook	W. I. Herndon,	G. M. Parson
140-12012 C	W. Davis -	R. N. Alford	I. D. Rogers	O. Gilleylen	W. R. Alsourook	W. I. Herndon	C. A. Kansin
312-1914 C	W. Davis	B. S. Butler	J. F. Chaney	O. Gilleylen	J. F. Dunn	W. T. Herndon.	C. A. Kankin
914-1910.1	W. Roundfree	Byron S. Butler	J. E. Chaney	Geo. P. Crawtord	W. P. Flember.	W. I. Herndon	Geo. W. Mai
10-1915, 1	. W. Koundree	C. H. Rutherford H. Rutherford	Tom Statuet	C. P. Crawlord.	J. B. Thomasson	W. T. Herndon.	C. W. Near
P1 1021 V	U Visaia	wo. W. Neal	I A Change	Claude Rankin -		W. T. Herndon.	J. D. MCCKS
	G. C. Floyd	no. w. mai	J. A. Chaney	Ginude Rankin .		w. I. Heindon.	J. D. Meess
092.1095 (U Lowie	Geo. W. Neal	I A Chance	T M Plants		W T Homelon	S IL Dunco
	G. C. Floyd	ocu, u. ucar.	J. M. Chancy I.	J. M. B12213		w. I. nemaon.	S. W. NECSE
25-1926 C	. H. Lewis	T. J. Jones	M. D. Cummings	I. M. Kizzia	H G Davis	W T-Herndon	S W Reese
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	C. G. Bolin						
027-1928 1	W. Roundtree 6	T. J. Jones	M. D. Cunnings	G. L. Webb	I. I. Burleson	W. T. Herndon	M.C. Burton
129-1930 V	. B. Horton	wanns Ganaway	M. D. Cunnings	G. 1. Webb	J. J. Martanitizza	W. T. Herndon 7	M. C. Burton
931-1932 V	. B. Horton	Wallis Callaway	M. D. Cunnings.	Will I. Stevens 8	I I Rurleson	M H Brewer	P C Caker
483.1424 \	C. J. Mauney	M C Barton	M D Cumina 0	0 1 0	i i n		

*County Superintendent, 5-Succeeded by J. S. Thomasson,

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