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&  
History Society Newsletter

Murfreesboro, Arkansas 71958  
Volume I January 1990 Number 1

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Contributing Editor: Dee Baggett

Our Newsletter has no permanent address at this time but correspondence regarding queries, membership dues and any other information may be addressed to:

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**NOTES from the EDITORS**

This is our first newsletter. It has been in the talking stage for the past year. We are still not sure of the format and several other small details. We need a permanent logo and a name for our newsletter. Any suggestions will be welcomed. We would appreciate any constructive suggestions for the success of our newsletter.

The Pike County Archives and History Society meets the first Thursday night of each month from 6:30 until 9:30 in the Murfreesboro Municipal Building. The Municipal Building is located directly opposite the Murfreesboro Post Office. The 6:30 to 7:30 time period is set aside so that members and guests may exchange information on families, history, or ideas about methods of researching and to give everyone an opportunity to socialize once a month. Business meeting is held from 7:30 until 9:30. You will find on the last page of the newsletter, a list of the Officers and information regarding membership dues.

**BY LAWS**

Upon request, PCAHS By Laws may be viewed at the office of the PCAHS located on the third floor of the court house.

**ATTENTION**

Just back from the printers  
and for sale from PCAHS

**"THE EARLY HISTORY OF PIKE COUNTY ARKANSAS"**

"The First One Hundred Years"

This book contains over 250 pages and has many photographs and interesting facts about early life in Pike County. Now fully indexed. Price is \$12.00 and all proceeds go to PCAHS. The \$12.00 price includes postage. Don't miss this great bargain!! Contact any member of PCAHS or either of the Editors and order your copy.

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041/041	Jordan White	47	m	Farmer	\$220	Tennessee
	Rebecca	46	f		Tennessee	
	Isaac	19	m		Arkansas	
	Mary	14	f		Arkansas	
	Rebecca	12	f		Arkansas	
	Napoleon B.	9	m		Arkansas	
	John Miller	20	m		Farmer	Georgia
Martha	17	f	Arkansas			
042/042	Pleasant White Jr.	21	m	Farmer		Tennessee
	Nancy	16	f		N. Carolina	
043/043	Uriah Stone	26	m	Farmer		Tennessee
	Martha A.	18	f		Alabama	
	Mary E.	1	f		Arkansas	
	James	25	m		Arkansas	
	Lucinda Stevenson	16	f		Alabama	
044/044	John A. Miller	25	m	Farmer		Tennessee
	Mary E.	15	f		Tennessee	
	Mary	1	f		Arkansas	
045/045	Peter J. Choat	34	m	Farmer		Tennessee
	Polly	31	f		Unknown	
	William T.	11	m		Mississippi	
	Martha A.	9	f		Alabama	
	James M.	7	m		Tennessee	
	Franklin	5	m		Mississippi	
	Elizabeth	2	f		Texas	
046/046	William Stone	47	m	Farmer		N. Carolina
	Sarah (Huddleston)	42	f		Tennessee	
	William	11	m		Tennessee	
	Daniel	9	m		Arkansas	
	Francis M.	6	m		Arkansas	
	Jane	4	f		Arkansas	
	Lucinda	5 months	f		Arkansas	
	Pemly Kelly	12	m		Mississippi	
	Cassandra	11	f		Mississippi	
	Alfred	13	m		N. Carolina	

During the 1850 federal census enumeration of Pike County, Arkansas, *William H. Preston*, Assistant Marshal, failed to make a new number for the *John Choat* household, thus it appears they are a part of the *William Stone* household in the original record. *John Choat* would have been household number 47/47 following the *William Stone* household 46/46. All household numbers in this transcript beginning with *John Choat* reflect the corrected number as it would have appeared without the error.

047/047	John Choat	44	m	Farmer		Tennessee
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John Davis departed life June 23, 1881.  
Nancey Davis departed life Feb. 7th 1886.  
James M. Gill departed life Jan. 9th 1889.  
Elizabeth Gill departed life Oct. 20, 1889.  
Ader J. Henderson departed life March 6th 1899.  
Grover C. Henderson departed life Feb. 10th 1914.  
Delia C. Brock departed life March 22nd 1916.  
L.C. Henderson, Sep. 12, 1937.  
A.L. Henderson died Aug. 30th 1943.

Bible Record of W.L. Brock, Little Rock, Arkansas.  
[1991]. Pike County Archives & History Society.

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## JAMES M. GENTRY BIBLE

### Family Record.

#### Births.

James M. Gentry was born March the 1st 1818.  
Elizabeth C. Gentry was born February 27th A.D. 1827.  
Mary Jane Gentry August the 8th A.D. 1843.  
Martha Ann Gentry was born 24th of October A.D. 1845.  
  
Wm. David Gentry was born March 13th A.D. 1848.  
Milley I. Gentry was born January the 7th A.D. 1850.  
Sarah Elizabeth Gentry was born February the 17th A.D. 1852.  
Jerusha Rebecca Gentry was born January 2nd A.D. 1854.  
James Franklin Gentry was born January the 26 A.D. 1856.  
Rose Allen Gentry was born April the 18th A.D. 1858.  
John Wesley Gentry Twas borned 22nd November A.D. 1860.  
Rial M. Bryant was borned Nover. 28, 1849.  
Harriet Catherin(e) Gentry was born September the 12th A.D. 1863.  
Mclain Logan was born September the 3rd A.D. 1832.  
Lewis Madison Gentry was born February 23rd 1867.  
Alfred Gentry was born April the 28, 1869.  
Fletcher Thurman Gentry was born September 25, 1888.

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#### Marriages.

James M. Gentry and E.C. Huddleston was married (sic) July the 7th 1842.  
Mc Logan and Mary Jane Gentry was married December the 9th 1858.  
R.M. Briant and Martha Ann Gentry was married

November the 14th 1861.  
James A. Talley and Martha Ann Briant was married December the 9, 1866.  
H.H. Estes and Sarah Elizabeth Gentry was married February the 9, 1871.  
William David Gentry and L.D. Estes was married February the 16 1871.  
Joe E. Smith and M.J. Gentry was married (sic) the 2 day January 1873.  
C.C. Garrison & H.C. Gentry was married June the 15 - 1882.  
John W. Gentry and Ella Pipkin was married December 21, 1887.  
Elizabeth C. Gentry died April 15th 1912.

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### Deaths.

Jerusha Rebecca Gentry departed this life the 29th of October A.D. 1857.  
Rose Allen Gentry deceased June 29, 1861.  
Rial M. Bryant deceased (sic) May the 17th 1862.  
Alfred Gentry Deceased April the 28, 1869.  
Lew. Madison Gentry departed this life the 23rd of October 1873.  
Sarah Elizabeth Estes departed life May the 28th 1882.  
  
James M. Gentry Deceased October the 22 (over) 22, 1885.  
  
Fletcher Thurman Gentry deceased October 25th 1888.  
  
Elizabeth C. Gentry died April 15, 1912.

Bible Record owner unknown. Pike County Archives and History Society. Seeking the location and owner of the James M. Gentry Bible. James Madison Gentry was the son of William Gentry and Jane Narrad of Clark [now Pike] County, Arkansas.

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## WILLIAM HENDERSON JORDAN RECORD

### Parent's Name

#### HUSBAND

William Henderson Jordan born February 23, 1842.  
Died April 26, 1919.

#### WIFE

Samantha Arminda Jordan born April 16, 1868. Died Sept. 14, 1931.

them to abandon this tract of country where the Indian title was not extinguished. On their way back to St. Louis they stopped at the *Wolf Creek Settlement* the last settlement they visited in that quarter of country and apprised the people of their business and discovered they, as with the other settlers of this region, were industrious and respectable. They were treated with "the utmost ... hospitality" even though these citizens resented the order of their government. They had been annexed to the County of Arkansas and by its officers assessed and had paid taxes and had magistrates commissioned to their settlements, militia officers, &c., all of which they considered as placing them under the protection and subjecting them to the will of the executive authority in all cases, but removal. See the *Territorial Papers of the United States, Clarence Edwin Carter, The Territory of Louisiana-Missouri, 1815-1821, pp. 182-183.* Nonetheless the *Kelleys* living on *Wolf Creek* chose to remain and likely were among those citizens living south and southwest of the Arkansas river who petitioned Governor *Clark* to allow them to remain on their improvement or at least stay until they could harvest and secure their crops for market that year.

*James G. Melson* settled about three miles south of the *Kelleys* near the *Little Missouri* river west of the public road. He arrived in 1816 from Boone county, Missouri. His previous residence was in Jefferson County, Mississippi. As prior indicated, when the first government land surveys were made (1819) in Clark (now Pike) County, Arkansas, the *Melson* improvements are shown in the original survey plat as two cultivated areas each described as "*Melson's Field*" in Township 9, South of Range 23 West. His family consisted of his wife *Rosanna Melson* and children: *Mary, Solomon, Rosanna, Washington* and *Emily*. Other early settlers of this area of the *Little Missouri* included *Samuel Bittick* and *Richard Wood*.

*Samuel Bittick*, believed to be the one who married *Nancy Williams* in Orange county, North Carolina on March 31, 1798, eventually settled in Missouri and by 1815 located in Lawrence county, Arkansas. From there he moved to Clark (now Pike) county, Arkansas where he died about 1826. This family included *Jesse Bittick* and probably *Francis* and *Rebecca Bittick*. *Francis Bittick* married *Mary Melson*. *Rebecca Bittick* married *Walter C. McLaughlin*. Others of the *Samuel Bittick* family (or) closely related to them in Clark and Pike county, Arkansas were *Elinor Bittick* the wife of *John Cheairs*, *Robert Bittick*, *Jonathan A. Bittick* husband of *Jinsy Butler* and *Lucinda Bittick* who married *Alexander B. Caruthers*. *Jonathan A. Bittick* left Arkansas and moved to Shelby county, Texas in 1830. *John Cheairs* moved to Hempstead County, Arkansas and later entered Texas by 1835.

*Richard Wood* came to Arkansas and died at the *Little Missouri*, Clark (now Pike) county, Arkansas in 1822. Additional members of this early family were: *Jacob Wood, James Wood, Jephtha Wood, John Wood, Thomas Wood, Patsy Wood, Polly Wood* who later married *Jesse Bittick* son of *Samuel Bittick*, and *Fanny Wood* who later became the wife of *William Ward* son of *James Ward*.

In 1817 *William Gentry* from Stewart County, Tennessee and his brother-in-law *James Ward* also from Tennessee settled in Clark (now Pike) county, Arkansas. They located on *Wolf Creek* on the east side of the *Southwest Trail* which was also referred to as the military or public road. The early court records indicate a *Tyre (Tirey) Gentry* thought to be the father of *William Gentry* and *Samuel Narrad* father of *Jane Gentry* wife of *William Gentry* were early settlers of Clark county, Arkansas. *William Gentry* and *James Ward* entered section 35 in Township 8, South of Range 23 West. To the east on the Clark county side of the *Antoine* bayou near *Wolf Creek* in Section 25, *David Edmiston* from Tennessee settled in 1818.

*Samuel Hasley* arrived in 1818 from Dickson county, Tennessee and eventually located on *Wolf Creek* and became a neighbor of *Elijah Kelley*. His children included: *Drewry, Samuel* and *Mariam Hasley*. *Drewry Hasley* married *Mary Ann Wingfield*. *Samuel Hasley* married *Sarah Wingfield*. *Mariam Hasley* married *Charles Wingfield* who came to Arkansas from Illinois in 1817. They lived at *Antoine*, Pike county, Arkansas and their tombstone markers are still standing (1993) in the *Antoine Cemetery* at *Antoine*, Arkansas. A *William C. Hasley* settled in Clark and later Hempstead county, Arkansas and married *Susanna Wingfield* daughter of *William Wingfield*. He was likely the son of the senior *Samuel Hasley*.

*John Ish* a native of Pennsylvania was an early settler of Clark (now Pike) county, Arkansas from Tennessee. He married *Cynthia Edmiston* May 20, 1819 a daughter of *David Edmiston* and eventually moved to Washington county, Arkansas in 1828 where they settled near *Morrow*.

*Joseph Delaney* another early citizen of this pioneer community of southeast Pike county, Arkansas married *Nancy Edmiston* a daughter of *David Edmiston*.

*Henry G. McLaughlin* who came with his parents to the *Antoine*, Clark county, Arkansas in 1818 or 1819 from Bellevue, Washington county, Missouri married *Malinda Edmiston* also a daughter of *David Edmiston*. They made their home in Pike county, Arkansas until 1835 when they moved to Washington county, Arkansas with other members of the *Edmiston* family.



# Gems of

# Pike County Arkansas

FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY  
35 NORTH WEST TEMPLE  
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH 84150

Vol. I No. 4 Publication of the Pike County Archives and History Society OCTOBER 1990

Box 238, Murfreesboro, Arkansas 71958

## COMING EVENT

LAST CHANCE TO INCLUDE YOUR FAMILY PHOTOGRAPHS  
IN  
"A LOOK AT THE PAST:  
A PIKE COUNTY ARKANSAS HISTORY in PICTURES"

In the mid 1980's, The Pike County Heritage Club, started a sesquicentennial project. This project was a "picture" book with the working title "A Look at the Past: A Pike County Arkansas History in Pictures". The Heritage Club was unable to complete this worthwhile undertaking and kindly allowed Pike County Archives and History Society the privilege of completing this work. Many of our new members are unaware of this forth coming book so PCAHS has extended the dead line until November 1990, to give everyone a chance to submit their photographs of early Pike County, Arkansas people or places. Please trust us with your pictures. Send good CLEAR photographs suitable for copying and briefly state who is in the photograph, what, where and when it was taken and the name and address of the submitter. PCAHS will return all photographs, to submitters, if postage is included and you wish your photos returned otherwise the copies of the photographs become the property of PCAHS. You may mail your pictures to Pike County Archives and History Society, P. O. Box 238, Murfreesboro, AR 71958 or contact any of the PCAHS officers listed in this newsletter for more information about this PCAHS project.

BETTER HURRY BECAUSE TIME IS ALMOST UP TO INCLUDE YOUR PHOTOGRAPHS IN THIS BOOK

## BITS OF HISTORY DIAMONDS IN ARKANSAS

The world of cartels and high finance was far removed from the experience of John Wesley Huddleston in August of 1906 when he found a 4 1/2 and a 3 carat white diamond in one afternoon on his farm in Pike County, Arkansas. Prior to that time, a few scattered single stones, possibly distributed by ancient glaciers, had been found on the North American continent. The Arkansas discovery, however, was the first locality, not only in the United States, but also on the Western Hemisphere, where diamonds were found in their original matrix. It was startling world news. (The above was abstracted from "Crater of Diamonds: Jewel of Arkansas" page 6, by Bobbie Lou Hendrix, copyright 1989) The Gems would like to thank PCAHS Vice President, Bobbie Hendrix for allowing us to reprint this excerpt of her book.