

Pike County, Arkansas

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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF ARKANSAS TERRITORY

Legislative Council.

Monday Oct. 7, 1833.

This being the day prescribed by law for the meeting of the GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE TERRITORY OF ARKANSAS, the following members of the LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL appeared, presented their credentials, were qualified, and took their seats, viz: FROM THE COUNTY OF ...Clark - Asa Thompson,...

Arkansas Gazette, October 16, 1833, Volume XIV, No. 43, Whole No. 889, page 2, column 1.

Legislative Council.

Thursday, Oct. 10, 1833.

The President announced the appointment of the following STANDING COMMITTEES: ...On Memorials - Messrs...THOMPSON...

Mr. THOMPSON presented petitions from sundry citizens of Clark and Hempstead counties, praying for a partial division of those counties so as

to make an additional one; which were referred to a select committee; consisting of Messrs. Thompson, Smith and Judkins.

Arkansas Gazette, October 16, 1833, Volume XIV, No. 43, Whole No. 889, page 2, column 5.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Tuesday, Oct. 15, 1833.

MR. THOMPSON, from the select committee to whom was referred the division of Clark and Hempstead counties, reported a bill, to be entitled "An act to erect and establish the county of _____;" which was read the 1st time, and ordered to a 2d reading.

Arkansas Gazette, October 23, 1833, Volume XIV, No. 44, Whole No. 890, page 2, column 3.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Wednesday, Oct. 16, 1833.

The bill to divide Clark and Hempstead counties, and to establish the county of _____, was taken up, read a second time, and committed to

of her & her said husband. His answer, I enclose to you, that there was no such record kept at the time of their marriage; the family Bible has entries in the handwriting of the decd., of the ages of himself, wife, and children, but no reference to marriage.

Please direct to me, as above.

M. THOMPSON

Comr. Pensions
Washington City, D.C.

*Reply from the Clerk of Elbert
county, Georgia*

Elbert on May 17th. 1855

O.A. Munn, Esq.

Dear Sir,

I recd., you(r) requesting a copy of the License & marriage of *Washington Sorrels & Mary B. Chalmers*, & in answer can inform you that there is no License recorded of file previous to 1806 in our county.

Yours Respectfully,

W.B. NELM
Ordinary

Bounty Land Claim, Mary B. Sorrels, National Archives, Washington, DC.

EARLY SETTLERS OF PIKE COUNTY, ARKANSAS

(cont. from Vol. 1, No. 3, page 50)

A list of persons who settled within the territorial limits of Pike county, Arkansas previous to its formation on November 1, 1833.

These settlers arrived prior 1820.

Samuel Bittick, from St. Louis county, Missouri; settled in Lawrence county, Arkansas, 1815, moved to Clark (now Pike) county, Arkansas, a neighbor of the *Melsons*; wife *Nancy*, children *Jesse, Francis* and *Rebecca*.

William Gentry, 1817, from Dover, Stewart county, Tennessee, settled in Township 8, South of Range 23, West, on the Clark county, Arkansas side of the public road that was later annexed to Pike county, Arkansas, wife *Jane*, children, *Patsy, John*, and *William*.

Samuel Hasley, 1818, from Dickson county, Tennessee, a wife, and children, *Mariam, Drewry, Samuel* and (*probably*) *William*.

James G. Melson, 1816, from Boone county, Missouri, settled in Township 9, South of Range 23, West, on Gum Creek; wife *Rosanna*, children, *Mary* and *Solomon*.

Early Settlers of Pike County, Arkansas ... to be continued.

pardon, but all proved abortive until the day of his execution, when the prisoner was shrouded and seated on his coffin, the prison door was open and the wagon standing ready to carry the prisoner to the gallows and the adjusting of the rope around the prisoners' neck. *John S. Taylor*, attorney, came with a respite for 20 days for the convict, just in time to rescue the prisoner. In a few more minutes he would have gone to that bourne from whence no traveler returns. The prisoner was then placed in jail to await the expiration of the twenty days. On the eleventh of December, at night, Judge *Hall* came with a pardon in full from Governor *Conway*, on condition that the party pay all legal fees except guard hire, and quit the county in 10 days and the limits of the state in 40 days, and not be found again in the state, and if so, to suffer death as the sentence was pronounced on him. The party soon settled all costs and the prisoner was discharged. When the door was opened to discharge the prisoner, a crowd of his friends were present, and the first words uttered by the prisoner, was: "Well, boys, all of you come up to the grocery and take a drink."

This looked strange to me, a man just escaping from the sentence of death, who had his shroud on, sitting on his coffin, (and) should think of whiskey instead of prayer and thanksgiving to God. Thus ended one of the most important criminal trials ever held in Arkansas.

On the day for the execution, there were more people present than I ever saw in Arkansas at one time, before or since, ... excitement ran high. I thought the prisoner would be taken from my custody and hung anyhow. At that time horse stealing was a capital offense by special act of the legislature. All of the attorneys for each side are dead, except, *Grandison D. Royston* and *Albert Pike*. Judge *L.I. Handy* and *James S. Ward*, clerk, are dead. Dr. *Willis S. Smith*,

the then Sheriff, is yet living. Copy of the respite and death warrant:

James S. Conway, Governor of the State of Arkansas, to whom it may concern, and especially to the sheriff of Clark county, Arkansas:

KNOW YE THAT, WHEREAS: *John H. Mosely* has been condemned and sentenced by the Circuit Court of said county of Clark, to suffer death by hanging on the ninth day of the present month.

NOW THEREFORE: I, *James S. Conway*, governor of the aforesaid, grant to said *John H. Mosley* a respite from the sentence of the said circuit court of Clark county. For the time and space of 20 days, from the date fixed for his execution. And you the said sheriff of Clark county, are commanded to suspend the execution of said sentence, of the said court on the said *John H. Mosley*, for the said space of 20 days from the date fixed ... for his execution.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF: I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the state to (be) (af)fixed, this seventh day of December, 1837, and of the Independence of the U.S., the sixty-second year.

(Seal of State) J.S. CONWAY,
by the Governor, R. H. Watkins, Secretary
of State.

In (this) case of the State of Arkansas vs. *John H. Mosely*, the following named persons were summoned by the sheriff of Clark county as guard to keep the said *Mosely* secure day and night, as the jail was not secure, having been made of logs; and the county site being then *Greenville*, was then sparsely inhabited, the county was new and not settled much at the time. The guard was one half on duty at a time while the other half was resting. I remember well, at

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one time, *Col. Bozeman* and I sat on guard most of the night:

Col. Bozeman, Joseph Gray, David Morrison, Frank Russell, Thomas McLaughlin, John Crow, J.H. Crow, B.F. Crow, James R. Crow, Abner Hignight, George Horner, Abraham Newton, William Jones, Jesse Skinner, William Pettyjohn, Col. Jacob Wells, A.A. Wells, G.W. Wells, James Sloan, Joseph Hoofman, Elias Hoofman, Jesse Hoofman, Thomas Wingfield, Jacob Wingfield, John Wingfield, Charles Wingfield, William Wingfield, Willis S. Smith, Dr. J.T. Hayden, Hendrix White, Richard Wilson, Sam(uel) Kelley, John Stephens, William Gentry, Jack Gentry, James Gentry, M. Ward, Jacob Logan, Benjamin Logan, George Overbaugh, Abraham Weir, Z. Weir, Charles Franklin, William Franklin, William Jones, Jr., John Lisenby, Lemuel Lisenby, Peter Leatherman, J.S. Stuart and A.E. Thornton; A.J. Thornton, Moses Guice, B.F. Wyatt, Enoch Frier, Peter McCain, _____ Prewit, F.C. Lisenby, Thomas McNeely, Richard McNeely, William McNeely, Robert McNeely.

The guard would certainly have to be relieved by others. The average of the guard was twelve men. There were many persons on guard, no doubt, not named above. I write from memory, altogether. It is nearing 40 years (1877) since the transaction of the above occurrence took place, and but few are now living who took part in this great trial. It is now one of the past events of our county history, and but very few of the above name(d) are now living to relate those trying times and talk them over when we meet. *The memory of those veterans should never be forgotten by those who live in the future.* Those who have departed this life and gone to the spirit land, I sincerely hope, are gazing on those joyful scenes in that "Happy Land" and visiting around the throne of God, or seated by some silver fount of

life recounting over their toils and trials whilst imprisoned here.

DR. WILLIS S. SMITH

Scrapbook, Willis S. Smith, pp. 1-5, 8, 10. Courtesy of Penny Breedlove.

STRAY HORSE TAKEN UP.

*State of Arkansas,
County of Pike,
Township of Thompson.*

PURSUANT to an order to us directed, we have this day viewed a stray horse shown to us by *John White*, and we do find the same to be a ROAN HORSE, with a streak in his face, branded on the near shoulder, thus, TF, nine years old this spring, thirteen hands high, and appraised to thirty dollars, by us, *James J. Coker* and *William Gilmer*.

Given under our hands, this 22d day of May, A.D. 1837.

WILLIAM GILMER
JAMES J. COKER
Appraisers.

Sworn and subscribed before me, this 22d day of May, A.D. 1837.

JOHN HUGHES, J.P.

Filed and recorded, and bond filed according to law, this 28th day of June, A.D. 1837. A true copy. Attest:

D.S. DICKSON
Clerk of Pike Circuit Court.
August 10, 1837

Arkansas Gazette, August 22, 1837, Volume 18, No. 36, Whole No. 1089, page 3, column 3, item 4.

DAVID HUDDLESTON

*Settles in Pike county, Arkansas in 1836;
County Judge 1840-1844.*

David Huddleston was born in North Carolina in 1800, lived in Tennessee, Missouri, and Alabama, and eventually settled in Arkansas locating in the Missouri township of Pike county. He later moved to Thompson township, and served as the County Judge at Murfreesboro, succeeding *William Kelley*, in 1840, and served until 1844 when he was replaced by his predecessor. His family record has been preserved as follows, *writer unknown*.

"I have had the following information for many years and the best I can remember, it was taken from the *Huddleston Family Bible* at the time of Aunt *Katie's* death. Daddy was administrator of her estate. I imagine he gave the *Bible* to some of the *Huddlestons*. I know Daddy gave much thought as to who should receive the *Bibles*. I was most happy when he gave me the *Brown Bible*. I do not know who is who in the list of *Huddlestons*, listed, but perhaps with information you have, it will help in some way."

FAMILY RECORD.

David Huddleston was born
November 29, 1800.

Mary Huddleston was born
October 9, 1806.

Children.

Elizabeth C. Huddleston was born
February 21, 1827.

William A. Huddleston was born
January 17, 1829.

Martha Huddleston was born
September 5, 1830.

David F. Huddleston was born

February 25, 1832.

Lewis A. Huddleston was born
September 27, 1835.

Sinthy A. Huddleston was born
February 23, 1838.

Mary Huddleston was born
May 3, 1841.

John W. Huddleston was born
December 20, 1842.

Children by second marriage.
(Wife's name not given.)

-*D.* and *Maryann Huddleston*
was born August 4, 1845. (*Twins.*)

Elizabeth Huddleston was born
January 30, 1847.

M.A. Huddleston was born
March 29, 1848.

Woodson J. Huddleston was born
October 15, 1850.

Franklin T. Huddleston was born
November 8, 1852.

Deaths.

Mary Huddleston departed this life,
Ma- 7, 1841.

Mary Huddleston departed this life,
June 7, 1843 (*Wife.*)

-*D. Huddleston* departed this life on
October 3, 184(5).

Maryann Huddleston departed this
life, October 23, 1849.

Franklin T. Huddleston departed this life,
September 23, 1853.

Elizabeth Huddleston departed this life,
March 11, 1854.

Little Bud Huddleston departed this life,
November 20, 1856.

William A. Huddleston departed this life,
May 1, 1868.

Bible Record of David Huddleston has been made available through the courtesy of the Pike County Archives and History Society, P.O. Box 238, Murfreesboro, Arkansas 71958.