Arkansas Genealogical Society
P.O. Box 26374
Little Rock, AR 72221-6374

Publications: Publications@agsgenealogy.org
Membership: Membership@agsgenealogy.org
AGS E-Zine: AGS_Ezine@agsgenealogy.org
Questions: AskAGS@agsgenealogy.org
Website: www.agsgenealogy.org

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On the Cover: Elwin (Preacher) Roe with his parents Dr. Charles E. Roe and Sarah Elizabeth Ducker Roe of Viola, Arkansas. Photo courtesy of the Roe family. See article on page 229.
The
ARKANSAS FAMILY HISTORIAN

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EDITOR’S NOTES

One purpose of The Arkansas Family Historian is to inform and educate genealogists, especially those interested in the history and family history of Arkansas. We can all learn something from the writing of other genealogists even if their particular family, record, or locale is not of direct interest to us. That’s because implicit in all genealogical writing are lessons in methodology, record use, analysis of evidence, and documentation of sources. It is for us to ferret out those primary facets of genealogical research and writing as examples of what we should and should not do in our own pursuit of family history.

Another purpose of the Historian, in line with the mission statement of AGS, is the preservation of records and research by giving submitters a forum to publish and therefore “save” their own family history research or personal records. Likewise, the indexing or transcribing of little known records or manuscripts reveals them to all researchers.

That being the case, in each issue of the Historian, the editors attempt to include a variety of articles that address a wide range of families, locales, records, eras, and events that indicate the breadth of family history research, display the range of relevant records, stress the importance of citing sources to insure accurate evidence analysis, and provide transcriptions or indexes of records that otherwise would not be available to or known by the majority of researchers.

So in this issue, we include the Family History Writing Contest winning article about a baseball playing family of northeast Arkansas; the last of the 1867 Ouachita County voter lists, comprising Carroll and Camden Precincts, plus a summary of the number of voters in each of the precincts; more births and deaths from the DeQueen Bee in 1899 and 1900; the list of early tax lists for Arkansas counties which are available at the Arkansas History Commission as well as on Family History Library microfilm; transcriptions and photocopies of the family pages from the Bible of the John Hall family of Van Buren County, Arkansas; a “Prior” birth certificate on which a man provided his father’s death date; and the interesting obituary of a former Arkansas governor, Henry M. Rector. An Ancestry Certificate lineage, queries, and a book review round out the offerings. I hope you enjoy reading them.

Susan Gardner Boyle
It was a night unlike any other in the summer of 1951 as 27,000 excited baseball fans filed into Sportsman’s Park in St. Louis, Missouri. The Brooklyn Dodgers were in town to challenge the Cardinals. Many of the eager spectators had driven up from Arkansas for the game. In a magnanimous gesture of sportsmanship, the Cardinals had declared this a special night—Preacher Roe Night—to honor not one of their own, but one of their Dodger opponents, a tall, skinny pitcher from Ash Flat, Arkansas.

Sitting in a special VIP section were Preacher Roe’s parents, Dr. Charles E. Roe and Sarah Elizabeth Ducker Roe of Viola, Arkansas; Dr. George Benson, President of Harding College [now Harding University], in Searcy, Arkansas, the school Preacher had attended; and M. E. Berryhill, Preacher’s former coach at Harding. All of them had known for many years that, sooner or later, this quiet man from the Ozarks would leave an indelible mark on major league baseball.

Dr. Roe, once a prominent pitcher in the old Cotton States League, had taught his son a lot of tricks of the trade before Preacher ever made it to the big leagues. Coach Berryhill had smoothed out some of Preacher’s rough edges, and his mama and Dr. Benson had provided the encouragement to stick with it.

It was an era when the Brooklyn Dodgers and the New York Yankees ruled the world of baseball, and Preacher Roe ruled the mound. He was the cream of the crop—the ace of the Dodger pitching staff—and now at the top of his game. He already had won nineteen games in 1951 and lost only two.

Before the contest, Roe’s adoring fans presented him with a luxurious powder blue Cadillac. After the groundskeepers rolled the big,

blue car slowly off the field, the umpire shouted “Play Ball!” and Preacher went to work. He hurled baseballs so fast, so slow, so dippy, so curvy, and so wobbly that even the great Cardinal slugger, Stan Musial, could not get a hit in four tries at bat. When the special night ended, Preacher had won his twentieth game of the season holding the Cardinals scoreless for a 1-0 Brooklyn win.²

Preacher’s mother, Sarah Elizabeth, had seen her son pitch only once before, a 1-0 shutout of the New York Yankees in the 1949 World Series. After the win over the Cardinals this night, Pee Wee Reese, Roe’s teammate, said that Preacher had spoiled his mother. “If your Mom ever sees them score a run off you,” said Pee Wee, “she’ll probably get up and leave the ball park in disgust.”³

Preacher Roe, his five brothers and one sister were children of the Great Depression. The 1920s, ’30s and early ’40s were hard times for folks everywhere, especially in the Arkansas Ozarks. Although the hill folks around Ash Flat and Viola ate fairly well by raising their own food, money for clothes and other store-bought goods was scarce. Preacher’s father, a country doctor, often received payments in farm produce and cattle and hogs instead of money.

Even without the depression, many in the Ozarks seemed to be destined for chronic poverty. In his book, Hill Folks: A History of Arkansas Ozarkers and Their Image, Brooks Blevins explains that, “New technologies had practically no direct influence on Ozark farming in the interior areas. In the 1920s, farm tractors remained oddities in most Ozark communities. Small hillside plots were better suited to mules and horses, and the money received from meager cash crops rarely inspired farmers to invest in labor saving machinery.”⁴

After a hard day’s work on the rocky hillsides many families entertained themselves by playing music together. Family bands were not uncommon in those days. Grownups and older kids played fiddles, banjos, guitars, mandolins, dulcimers, harmonicas, and bull fiddles (stand-up bass fiddles).

The smaller kids joined in by shaking tambourines, rubbing washboards, and tapping spoons on their thighs to keep the beat. The

² Rosenfeld, p. 177.
³ Ibid.
whole family was in on the act. As Johnny Cash, a noted Arkansas musician once put it in a song, “Daddy sang bass, Mama sang tenor, me and little brother joined right in.”

But the Roe family of Viola in Fulton County, Arkansas, was different. They made their fun not by pickin’ and grinnin’ on the front porch, but with baseballs and bats out in the cow pasture. While every town in Arkansas, large or small, had its own team, the Roes enjoyed a unique reputation as the only family in those parts, and possibly the nation, to form their own in-house baseball team.

Dr. Roe managed, coached, and pitched for the Roe family team. Five sons, Waymon, Roy, Creston, Cecil, and Glenn shared infield and outfield duties. A sixth son, Elwin “Preacher” Roe, played the outfield and shared pitching duties with his father. Essie, the lone girl in the family, played catcher. Her husband, Talmage Franks, rounded out the Roe family team as their ninth player.

One summer in the 1930s the Democratic Party had nine men running for sheriff in Fulton County. To draw larger crowds to their speechmaking events, the candidates formed their own baseball team to compete with the Roe family team. The candidates for sheriff and the Roe family played each other in about six games during the summer campaign.

Wanda Finley Roe, currently a resident of Pea Ridge, Arkansas, recalls her total immersion into the world of baseball after she married Preacher Roe’s brother, Roy. “It was culture shock,” she said. “My interests had always been in music and art, and then all of a sudden here I am surrounded by a bunch of jocks.”

“The whole Roe family lived and breathed sports,” she continued, “especially baseball. Baseball was usually the topic of conversation at the supper table. Dr. Roe was a stubborn man. He kept a large collection of baseball magazines. Any time there was an argument at supper about baseball facts, he would go fetch a publication to prove he was right. Dr. Roe had an amazing memory. He could tell you who tore his pants in 1932 while sliding into third base at St. Louis on the Fourth of July in the

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6 Wanda Finley Roe, personal interview with the author, 15 January 2009.
7 Preacher Roe and Sarah Preslar, When Baseball Was Still a Game (Hardy, Arkansas: Catalyst Apex Publishing), 9.
fifth inning with the Cardinals at bat in the first game of a double-header with two outs and the score tied three to three.”

Dr. Charles Edward Roe, the creator of Roe family baseball, was orphaned at age twelve. His family was in Newport at the time his father, William Edward Roe, died of pneumonia on 14 January 1894. William, the father, had married Harriet Rose Alpha Hutcheson 21 August 1879. Two of their children died in infancy. Frances Angelline Roe, born 15 September 1880, died 5 December 1881. The other child, Odies Hutcheson Roe, born 7 January 1883, died on 8 Sep 1883 when he was ten months old. The seven remaining orphans were:

- Charles Edward Roe, the original baseball player, born 24 August 1884, died 10 November 1952 at Viola, Arkansas.
- Dora Belle Roe, born 2 June 1887, died in 1961.
- Mitte Ann Roe, born 28 December 1888 at Wake in Baxter County, Arkansas, died 5 August 1984 at Stroud, Oklahoma.
- Cora Viola Roe was born 24 January 1890, but her place and date of death are unknown.
- Madison Bathes Roe, born 10 March 1892, died in 1962.

In a world where it was customary for other family members to take in their orphan kin, the Roe kids turned out to be an exception to the rule. A wealthy uncle in Mountain Home, Arkansas, refused to help in the situation so the Roe children were cared for by other families. Dr. Roe was perhaps around ten when he went to live with a family named Swearingen. His memories of that experience were darkened by the fact that one of his chores required him to change baby diapers. Later, he got a chance to live with another family without babies.

The 1900 United States Federal Census lists Dr. Charles Roe as Charley Roe, age fifteen, a boarder in the home of William D. Reed, age sixty-five and Sarah A. Reed, age sixty-one. They lived at Bryan in Izard

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County, Arkansas. The census report indicates that Charles Roe’s father was born in Missouri and his mother was born in Arkansas.\(^\text{10}\)

Lord only knows how Charles Roe survived a meager childhood being bounced from pillar to post, and then went on to play organized baseball and eventually become a physician. Perhaps his grit and determination came from his ancestors.

Moses Roe, thought to be the son of an Irish immigrant, was born in Louisa County, Virginia about 1770. He married Rebecca Mantalawe, daughter of James M. Mantalawe and Sarah Martin, who was born about 1775 in Hanover County, Virginia. Rebecca died on 10 June 1825 in Robertson County, Tennessee, and Moses died sometime after 1840 in the same place.\(^\text{11}\)

Moses and Rebecca’s marriage bond was issued in Louisa County, Virginia on 28 Mar 1792.\(^\text{12}\)

\[
\text{Know all men by these presents that we Moses Row & Abraham Estes are held and firmly bound unto Henry Lee Esq. our present Governor & his Successors in Office in the Sum of Fifty Pounds Current money of Virginia Which payment Well & truly to be made we bind ourselves our heirs & firmly by this presents Sealed With our seals dated this 28\textsuperscript{th} day of March 1792 The condition of the above Obligation is such that Whereas there is a Marriage Suddenly intended to be had & solemnized between the above bound Moses Row & Rebecca Mantalawe if therefore their [sic] be no lawful Cause to Obstruct this Marriage then this above Obligation to be Void or Else to Remain in full force & Virtue.}
\]

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{his} \\
\text{Moses} & \quad X & \text{Row (seal)} \\
\text{mark} & \quad & \\
\text{Abraham Estes (seal)} & \\
\end{align*}
\]

\(^{10}\) William D. Reed household, 1900 U.S. census, Izard County, Arkansas, population schedule, Bryan township, ED 158, sheet 1B, p. 261, dwelling and family 14, line 71, Charley Roe, NARA microfilm T623, roll 62.


\(^{12}\) Marriage Bonds, Louisa County, Virginia, 1785-1792; Library of Virginia, Richmond, Positive reel No. 47.
Moses and Rebecca had four sons and four daughters. They were:

- Louisa Virginia Roe who died ca. 1867 in Tennessee.
- William Matthew Roe, born 1797 in Virginia, died 1875 in Missouri.
- Malinda Roe, born 1800 in Virginia, died 1866 in Robertson County, Tennessee.
- Mariah Roe, born 1806 in Virginia, died 1867.
- Richard M. Roe, born in 1806 in Virginia.
- James Bath Roe, born about 1810.
- Harriet Elizabeth Roe, born about 1811.
- Moses Jones Roe, born 1817 in Tennessee, died 1873.

The early Roes, like many other Virginia families, gradually moved westward in search of land and greater economic opportunities. Moses and Rebecca moved on to Tennessee about 1815. Their son, William Matthew Roe married Margaret Bell, daughter of James and Mary McMillan Bell in 1820 at Springfield in Robertson County, Tennessee. Like all the other Roes, William and Margaret were a prolific pair producing six girls and six boys. Born to them were:

- Mary Margaret Roe, born 24 October 1823 in Tennessee, died 7 May 1914 in Todd County, Kentucky.
- Margaret Roe, born 2 November 1825, died as an infant 9 January 1826.
- James Bathes Roe, born 17 December 1826 in Tennessee, died March 1870.
- Leroy Teague Roe, born 16 April 1829 in Tennessee, died 18 February 1877 in Kentucky.
- Martha Rebecca Roe, born 6 May 1831 in Tennessee.
- William Matthew Roe, born 4 May 1833 in Tennessee, died 14 November 1864 in Todd County, Kentucky.
- Leonidas Andrew W. Roe, born 3 October 1835 in Tennessee, died 10 January 1917 in Missouri.

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13 Ancestry.com Family Trees, Moses Roe (Row) and Rebekah Mantalowe/Mantlo
• Nancy Elizabeth Roe, born 30 January 1841 in Todd County, Kentucky, died 6 October 1884 in Todd County.
• Edward C. Roe, born 30 November 1843 in Kentucky, died 30 December 1929.
• Miranda B. Roe, born 7 July 1847 in Logan County, Kentucky, died 31 January 1917 in Missouri.
• Henry C. Roe, born 27 August 1849 in Kentucky, died 21 November 1862.

The Roes continued their gradual westward migration into Arkansas when James Bathes Roe, son of William Matthew Roe and Margaret Bell Roe, left Kentucky and ended up in Izard County, Arkansas. Before moving to Arkansas, James married Frances Jane Haile in Kentucky in 1854. Born to them were:15

• Elisa Ann Roe
• Winfield Scott Roe
• William Edward Roe, born 6 January 1855, died 14 January 1894, Newport, Arkansas; buried in Izard County, Arkansas.
• Belle Kee Roe, born 1 July 1861, died 21 February 1949.
• Delta Augusta Roe, born 22 February 1863, died 13 November 1893.
• Cora Emma Roe, born 10 March 1866.
• Laura Ann Roe, born 10 September 1868, died 12 August 1917.
• James Bathes Roe, Jr., born 23 August 1870, died 10 June 1926.

James and Frances lived in Pineville, Izard County, Arkansas. James Bathes Roe died in March 1870 and was buried in the Wolf Family Cemetery near Norfolk in present-day Baxter County, where his wife, Frances Jane, is also buried.16

Their son William Edward Roe would marry Harriet Rose Alpha Hutcheson and become the father of Dr. Charles E. Roe, the family’s first baseball player. When Dr. Roe played in the old Cotton States League, he pitched for Memphis in 1917, and then went with the Pine Bluff Lumbermen the following year.\textsuperscript{17} Teams in the league included the Baton Rouge Cajuns, Vicksburg Hill Billies, Natchez Indians, Greenville Cotton Pickers, Meridian White Ribbons, Jackson Senators, and others.\textsuperscript{18}

Dr. Roe never wavered in his love for baseball, but he needed a more reliable career to raise his family. He quit professional baseball to become a doctor. In their book, \textit{When Baseball Was Still a Game}, Preacher Roe and Sarah Preslar tell us about his dedication:

As a country doctor, he always kept good horses that he purchased from the race track in Hot Springs, Arkansas. Preacher remembers the year of the epidemic [influenza] and his father was out for days taking care of all the sick families in the community. As the town telephone operator, Mrs. Roe would keep up with where Dr. Roe was and where he needed to go next. When the worst of the epidemic was over, Dr. Roe came riding into the yard sound asleep on top of the same horse he had ridden away on days before. The men from town were there to help him off his horse and put Dr. Roe to bed. The next morning that horse was found dead in its stall.\textsuperscript{19}

Dr. Roe studied his six sons, looking for the major league pitcher he always wanted to be. His fifth son, Elwin, showed such great promise as a teenager that Dr. Roe knew he had a future major leaguer in the family.

Dr. Roe also understood the value of an education. I have in my possession a \textit{Wide World Photo} from an unidentified newspaper showing Preacher in a Harding baseball uniform, with the caption: “HE HASTA GO TO SCHOOL—Elwin (Preacher) Roe, 19 year old Harding College sophomore southpaw, has offers from Cleveland and the Yanks, but his folks say he’ll have to graduate before he can take up a pitching career.”

\textsuperscript{19} Roe and Preslar, 3.
Elwin Roe got the name “Preacher” when one of his uncles back from World War I asked him his name. Elwin, then three, replied, “Preacher” because of his affection for a local preacher who would take him along on horse and buggy rides. The name stuck. Elwin liked the name, and ever since he has been known as Preacher Roe—without quotation marks.

In his book with Sarah Preslar, Preacher talked about growing up in Viola, Arkansas.

“…we moved to Viola which was eight miles north of Wild Cherry. I’ll never forget the day we moved…we had four wagons, double teamed on each wagon, we put everything we had in it. My older brothers drove the cattle and the extra horses up in front of us, and it took all day for us to get loaded and moved and unloaded. The next morning, all six of us kids had the measles. And what a time my mother and dad had…I started to school in Viola, and I started there as Preacher Roe. And I went to Viola schools through the eighth grade with the same children who were in my class the first day of school and they didn’t know me as nothing but Preacher…We went to Viola in a three room school house; the first three grades was one room; the next three was one room; and upstairs were seventh and eighth….”

20 Roe and Preslar, p. 7.
Dr. Charles Roe and Elizabeth Ducker Roe raised their six sons and one daughter at Viola, Arkansas, which in 1977 had a population of 320.\textsuperscript{21} The Roe children were:

- Creston Roe, born 10 October 1905 at Viola, Arkansas, died July 1970 at Viola.\textsuperscript{22} He lived for a time in Oklahoma and Kansas.
- Essie May Roe, born 22 July 1907 at Pineville, Arkansas, died 12 October 1993 at West Plains, Missouri and was buried in Howell Cemetery. She married Talmage Franks 1 November 1924 at Viola, Arkansas. He was born 22 April 1897 at Viola, Arkansas and died 4 July 1955 at West Plains, Missouri. He is also buried in Howell Cemetery. They had three children, the oldest a daughter and two sons, Charles Andy Franks, born 6 July 1925 and Imon Karl Franks, born 9 August 1926.\textsuperscript{23}
- William Glenn Roe was born in 1909 and died after 1972. He was a contractor at West Plains, Missouri.\textsuperscript{24}
- Waymon B. Roe was born 20 April 1909. He was a teacher and coach at Viola, Arkansas. He was killed in an automobile accident in July 1984. He is buried at West Plains, Missouri.\textsuperscript{25}
- Cecil Edward Roe, born Fulton, Arkansas, 24 August 1910, died 13 Nov 1980 at Excelsior Springs, Missouri. Married Lottie Weaver 25 December 1930 at Wichita Falls, Texas. They had three sons and lived for a time in Texas.\textsuperscript{26} One son, Joseph Charles Roe, now lives near Searcy, Arkansas.\textsuperscript{27}
- Elwin C. Roe, born 26 February 1916 at Ash Flat, Arkansas, died 9 November 2008 at West Plains, Missouri. He married Mozee Clay, born 4 October 1918. She died 14 April 2002. Better known as Preacher Roe, he played professional baseball for teams in Rochester, New York; Columbus, Ohio; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; St. Louis, Missouri; and Brooklyn, New York. He

\textsuperscript{21} Map of Arkansas, Rand McNally, Skokie, IL., 1977
\textsuperscript{22} Social Security Death Index, Ancestry.com, source citation No. 509-20-0664, issued State of Kansas.
\textsuperscript{24} Wanda Roe, personal interview, 15 Mar 2009.
\textsuperscript{25} Ibid.
\textsuperscript{26} Ducker Family Tree, http://trees.ancestry.com
\textsuperscript{27} Wanda Roe, personal interview with author, 15 Mar 2009.
\textsuperscript{28} Nancy Cole, personal correspondence with author, 16 Mar 2009.
retired after being traded to the Baltimore Orioles. He and Mozee had two sons, Elwin Roe, Jr., born in 1940 at Viola, Arkansas, and Tommy, born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, in 1946.  

- Roy Arlington Roe was born at Viola, Arkansas, 27 September 1919 and died at Viola 23 June 1992. He married Wanda Finley 25 December 1940 at Mountain Home, Arkansas. Roy and Wanda were both teachers at Viola. Roy became a school administrator in several Arkansas towns. He worked in public school systems at Hardy, Fountain Lake, Hoxie, Foreman, Pea Ridge, and Yellville.

Roy Roe, the sixth son, was offered a baseball contract by Branch Rickey, Brooklyn Dodger general manager, but he turned it down to teach school in Arkansas. An undated page in my possession from the *Izard County Historian* reprints a small news article about Roy Roe:

May 1, 1925-News of Viola: Little Roy Roe the five-year-old son of Dr. and Mrs. Roe can name all the Presidents of the U.S. and tell how many are living, how many have been killed and can name the Governor of Arkansas and all the county officers. Roy says he will be old enough to go to school next year and learn lots then.

In the half century of Roe family baseball, it was the fifth son, Preacher, who achieved world-wide fame. Preacher was a five-time National League All-Star (1945 and 1949-52); two-time National League winning percentage leader (1951 and 1953); and National League

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29 Ibid.
strikeouts leader (1945). 31 “When Preacher Roe pitched, it was a clinic on control, change of speed, and most important, how he psyched out the hitters,” said his teammate, Carl Erskine. 32

Preacher’s father, Dr. Charles Roe, had taught him how to play mind games with hitters. Preacher’s cunning ability to “mess with their heads” is what set him apart from other major league pitchers. Roger Kahn, possibly the country’s most astute baseball observer, said that “…the most cerebral Brooklyn pitcher was a tall, skinny, hillbilly named Elwin Charles “Preacher” Roe.” 33

Roger Kahn said that Preacher disguised his ferocious intelligence behind a hillbilly manner. In a memoir, Kahn quotes Preacher from conversations with him on the subtleties of his art:

“Sometimes when I’m gunning for a hitter I can get with a slow curve down low,” Roe said, “I set him up with a fast ball around the eyes. That’s a ball fer sure, and he won’t swing, but like it or not he picks up the speed of that pitch. And that clicks somewhere in his head. Now, when I throw the slow one, he’s still reacting to the fast pitch up around his eyes. He swings too soon. I got my man. He makes out on a pitch in the strike zone, but he gets thrown off by the pitch around his eyes. When I hear someone sayin’ the high fast one was a bad pitch because it was a ball, I got to wonder what they might be talking about. This game is not as simple as it seems.” 34

Kahn said that Preacher “pretty much embodied the Arkansas country slicker. Roe mixed four or five pitches, including a spitball, which he spotted in clutch situations. He had shut out the New York Yankees in the 1949 World Series, baffling even the Bronx household god, Joe DiMaggio. “‘How did you get DiMaggio out like that?’ a reporter asked… ‘I fooled him with my forkball,’ Roe replied.” 35

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34 Roger Kahn, Memories Of Summer: When Baseball Was an Art, and Writing About It Was a Game, (New York: Hyperion, 1997), 68.
35 Roger Kahn, Memories of Summer, 106.
Forkball was another term for spitball, a questionable pitch much frowned upon by the rule book. Brooklyn catcher Roy Campanella said, “I caught spitters all the time in the Negro Leagues, but Preacher threw the best wet one I ever saw.”

Speaking of the spitball, Richard Goldstein said, “A wily left-hander from the Ozarks, Roe would have a string of fine seasons, courtesy of a spitball he would ultimately admit to creating from the juice of Beechnut gum.”

So how come Preacher was never caught hurling “the wet one”, as he liked to call it. He employed his superior intellect in many clever ways. Roger Kahn recalls that, “Once, when Roe was holding a pre-moistened ball, umpire Larry Goetz came charging in from second base yelling, ‘The ball, Preacher, I want to see the f…..g ball.’

Roe tossed the ball obediently to Goetz, but well over his head. “Pee Wee Reese scooped the ball and flipped it to Jackie Robinson, who rubbed the ball and tossed it to Gil Hodges. After another rub, Hodges tossed the ball to Billy Cox who flipped it to Roe. Ten hands had now rubbed the baseball dry. ‘Here, Larry,’ Roe said mildly, ‘Here’s the f…..g ball.’

Another time, the umpire behind the plate, suspicious that Roe had moistened the ball for a spitter, demanded to see it. Preacher rolled the ball to him across sixty feet of infield dirt.

Sometimes Preacher would pretend to moisten his fingers being aware that a fake spitball was yet another pitch to keep hitters off balance. “I got three speeds,” he said. “I got my change of pace (slow ball). I got my change off my change (slower yet). And I got my change, off’n my change off my change (slowest).” He would throw a humming fastball at eye level now and then to upset the hitters timing.

Jon Thurber noted that, “He (Preacher) had the reputation of being one of the slowest working pitchers in the majors, which was all part of his plan to play with hitters’ minds. Long believed to be skilled in using the spitball, Roe would repeatedly distract the hitter by going to the bill of his cap with his hand. Sometimes he would spit on his wrist and the

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saliva would drip onto the ball, which would take interesting dips on the way to the batter.”

During one period in the winter months, Preacher taught math and coached basketball at Hardy (Arkansas) High School. As teenage athletes at Batesville, I and others on our basketball team always looked forward to playing Hardy—mostly just to see Preacher and shake his hand. He was an inspiration to all of us. He was living proof that it was possible for a country boy from Arkansas to make it big in the Big Apple.

Bernis Duke is an example of Preacher’s influence on high school players at Hardy. He gives Preacher credit for getting him interested in sports. Bernis went on to become a four-time all-state basketball player in the old Amateur Athletic Association, a three-time heavy weight AAU boxing champion of Arkansas, and an internationally known tennis coach for many years at Oral Roberts University. “Preacher was my mentor as well as the mentor for the Dodger players,” Bernis said. “He was truly an inspiration to all us kids at Hardy.”

After a half century of Roe family baseball, the cheering gradually faded away to a faint echo in the hills. Dr. Charles Roe pitched his last game in 1949 at age sixty-five. Five years later, Preacher retired from the game, and two years later the Dodgers moved to Los Angeles. All is gone—even the Dodgers Service Station in Brooklyn behind Ebbets Field where Preacher used to park his powder blue Cadillac.

After his retirement from the Dodgers, Preacher operated Preacher Roe’s Supermarket at West Plains, Missouri—a short distance from his birthplace and the area where he grew up. There he organized and coached youth baseball and took up golf at age seventy-seven.

His death on 9 November 2008, at the age of 92, was reported across the country by The New York Times, The Washington Post, The Los Angeles Times, and other leading newspapers in addition to major radio and television networks.

Even though he rose to be a world celebrity, Preacher never “got above his raisin’.” He loved the Arkansas Ozarks. Wanda Roe, wife of Preacher’s younger brother, Roy, recalls that despite his fame, there were no sibling rivalries or jealousies of Preacher’s accomplishments. His

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The Roe Family

whole family thought he was great, and he shared the same feelings for them.\footnote{Wanda Roe, personal interview with author, 4 March 2009.}

Dr. Roe and Elizabeth Ducker Roe raised a tightly knit family. They were a unique group, possibly the world’s only family to have their own baseball team. They could hold their own with any small town team in Arkansas or Missouri. One of them went on to excel at baseball’s highest level. The rest of the family loved every minute of his success. He introduced them to bright lights and big cities. But the baseball Roes never took the big cities to heart. Most of them never lived more than twenty-five miles from where they grew up at Viola, Arkansas. Next to each other, they loved the hills of home—and, of course, baseball.

\begin{figure}
\centering
\includegraphics[width=\textwidth]{image}
\caption{Dr. and Mrs. Charles Roe, Parents of Preacher Roe}
\end{figure}
In 1867 the U.S. Congress passed acts providing for the registration of voters and holding of elections in the former Confederate states. Otherwise qualified males of age twenty-one who had not voluntarily served in the Confederate Army could register after taking an oath. Some of these voter registration lists for Arkansas survived and were filmed by the Mississippi State Archives. The lists are by county and then by election precincts that correspond to 1867 townships. The names in each township are not alphabetical but are sometimes numbered. The following is part of the list of Ouachita County, Arkansas, voters. Every attempt has been made to preserve original spelling. The film may be accessed at the Arkansas History Commission and State Archives, General Microfilm file, Voters: Voters Lists 1867, Ashley – Yell Cos., 0001959, roll 1.

Carroll Election Precinct

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71 Plesant Dunlap
72 James Dorthc
73 Thos. Dunlap
74 Peter Stone
75 Thos. Johnson
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77 Jefferson Carter
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80 Jas. Lawrence
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83 William Dunlap
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85 Lemuel Holley
86 Marlin Ritchie
87 Benj. Toney
88 Isham Whitfield
89 Lewis Hopkins
90 Jas. Thompson
91 James Williams
92 Henry Douglas
93 Harry Rogers
94 Saml. Rogers
95 James Parks
96 Jas. Hopkins
97 Wm. Allen
98 Alex Dortch
99 L. M. Dickenson
100 B. B. Beard
101 Ruben Jefferson
102 Handy Jefferson
Richard Hunter

J. B. Rumph

James Beard

Collins Brown

Isaac Lester

John Luster

Wm. Thomas

Henry Butler

Loy Davidson

Berryman Hughes

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Aaron Henson

Henry Mitchell

Andrew Smith

Moses Mitchell

Prince Albert

A. C. Earl

Jerry Huff

Hilliary Baker

Moses Carter

Wm. R. Boggs

Hezekiah James

Frank Clark

Benj. Franklin

Green Baker

W. H. Stuart

Lewis Clark

Geo. Randle

Wm. Thomas

John Andrew

Geo. Boddie

Geo. Parker

G. A. Taylor

Stephen A. Agee

W. J. Hogue

Wm. Carmicle

R. B. Beckner

H. B. Humphries

Lorenzo Broadnax

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Geo. H. Goddard

Henry Williams

David Williams

John Williams

John H. Thomas

A. H. Deets

C. A. Gee

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15  Alex Montgomery
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18  Robert Coffman
19  Ralph Hill
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21  Geo. Ivey
22  Abram Metlock
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Very Respectfully
Yours,
Robert S. Woolford
Pres. Board Registers
Ouachita Co.
The DeQueen Bee newspaper was established 4 June 1897, about the same time as the founding of the town of DeQueen in Sevier County. It is a weekly newspaper published on Fridays. Microfilmed copies of the paper beginning with the 25 June 1897 issue are available at the Arkansas History Commission with very few missing issues. Microfilm may also be found at the Southwest Arkansas Regional Archives in Washington, Arkansas, and at the DeQueen Public Library.

The entries noted here are extractions of births and deaths found in the microfilmed copies of the paper. Events of statewide or national interest are not included. Although only births and deaths of local interest were extracted, they represent a large area surrounding DeQueen including much of Sevier County, Polk County, Howard County, Little River County, and extreme southeast Oklahoma.

The entries include the name of the deceased or newly-born, the date of the newspaper, the page number, and an extraction of the information printed.

Owens, Mrs. Willis, 14 July 1899, p. 2; died last Friday night; of Lockesburg

DeBaum, Moses, 14 July 1899, p. 2; died Sunday night from an attack of paralysis; resident of DeQueen for more than a year; bartender at Star Saloon; has relatives in McGregor, Texas; buried in cemetery west of town

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1 Arkansas History Commission MFILM NEWS, roll 000130, DeQueen Bee, June 25, 1897-April 19, 1901, roll 01.
Goings, Sampson, 21 July 1899, p. 1; deputy sheriff of Eagle county, Choctaw Nation, killed by William Goings and Rompson Crosby in 1896

Goings, William, 21 July 1899, p. 1; executed for murder on July 13, 1899; convicted of murdering Sampson Goings

Crosby, Rompson, 21 July 1899, p. 1; died in summer of 1898 of natural causes at his home near Lukfatah, I.T.; escaped from jail; convicted of murdering Sampson Goings

Goings, William, 21 July 1899, p. 2; shot at Sulphur Springs, I. T. on Thursday for the murder of seven persons

Howel, Charley, 4 August 1899, p. 2; died July 25; leaves four children whose mother died some two years since; survived by mother

Skinner, Thomas, 1 September 1899, p. 2; died August 20 at his father’s home near Lockesburg; just growing into manhood

Wommack, 8 September 1899, p. 1; birth of girl to Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Wommack

Farrow, Mrs. J., 8 September 1899, p. 1; died Sunday night; of Pullman; leaves a family

Sager, Dr. Louis A., 8 September 1899, p. 2; died last Thursday; of Dolby Springs, Texas; one of the leading specialists of this section of country

Cleary, Pierce, 8 September 1899, p. 2; died September 2; of this city; had been ill for some time; remains taken to Nashville for burial; leaves a family

Brown, Dr., 15 September 1899, p. 1; funeral attended Wednesday by W. S. Johnson, Scott Johnson, E. Turrentine, John Ayers, D. Gorman, W. M. Luttrell, and Drs. B. E. Hendrix and E. S. Smith, of Gillham
Brown, Dr. E. M., 15 September 1899, p. 1; died last Tuesday; of this city; death result of gunshot wound received while in Confederate army; born July 17, 1831 in Anderson county, South Carolina; married there in July 1859; moved to Crawford county, Arkansas in 1882; moved to Sevier county in 1890; leaves wife and three sons; two sons preceded him in death, Dr. Robert Brown died November 7, 1889 in Crawford county and Dr. John Brown laid to rest in Polk county November 11, 1896; funeral services conducted Wednesday by Baptist church; buried in new cemetery just west of town.

Tarter, 22 September 1899, p. 1; man named Tarter shot by Walk Cannon Saturday night while leaving church at Lyons school house; shoved out the rear door by S. E. Hallman and sons where Cannon was waiting; died Sunday; Walk Cannon, S. E. Hallman, Frank Hallman, Charley Hallman arrested and deny charge; victim said he was shot because of statement he’d made about family matter concerning the Hallmans.

Lee, Emma A., 22 September 1899, p. 1; died Friday, September 15; wife of Robert Lee; had lived in the county several years; member of Baptist church at this place; leaves husband and two small children; buried in new cemetery Saturday.

Lee, S. W., 22 September 1899, p. 1; died Tuesday after several days illness; of this city; born in Louisiana 47 years ago; moved to Hempstead county then to Sevier county; member of DeQueen Baptist church; buried in new cemetery Tuesday.

Wilson, M. C., 22 September 1899, p. 1; died of apoplexy last Friday; had moved to Lockesburg during early history of town; leaves wife.

Wilson, M. C., 22 September 1899, p. 1; W. H. Merideth and family attend funeral of Mrs. Merideth’s father at Lockesburg Saturday.

Tarter, Mr., 22 September 1899, p. 1; Senator Collins was at Brownsville attending preliminary trial in the killing of Mr. Tarter.
Brown, Dr. E. M., 22 September 1899, p. 2; born in 1831; had almost reached his three score years and ten; memorial written by J. R. Miller, M. D.

Brown, Dr. E. M., 22 September 1899, p. 2; resolutions of the Sevier County Medical Society

Brown, Dr. E. M., 22 September 1899, p. 2; died September 12, 1899; resolutions of the Sweet Home Lodge, F. and A. Masons

Banks, 29 September 1899, p. 1; birth of boy to Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Banks

Giles, 27 October 1899, p. 1; Jennie Giles called to Hope Saturday by death of her father

Hutcheson, Col. J. R., 10 November 1899, p. 1; died Thursday; of Lockesburg; moved here from Columbia county several years ago

Brown, Eliiah M., 17 November 1899, p. 1; died at DeQueen September 12, 1899; born Anderson county, South Carolina June 17, 1831; married Miss Emily Moore of Anderson, South Carolina in 1855; graduated from Atlanta (Ga.) Medical School in 1859; volunteered and elected Lieutenant of Company I, 4th Regiment S. C. Volunteers, C. S. A.; later elected Captain of Company L, 2d S.C. Rifles; wounded at the Battle of the Wilderness; resolutions of respect from the John H. Morgan Camp of Ex-Confederates (U. C. V.)

Davis, L. J., 24 November 1899, p. 1; died Tuesday at his home in this city; funeral services conducted at the late residence of the deceased under auspices of Independent Order of Odd Fellows

Davis, L. J., 1 December 1899, p. 1; resolutions of the DeQueen Lodge I. O. O. F. No. 159

Akin, 15 December 1899, p. 1; birth of ten pound boy to Mr. and Mrs. Berry Akin
Johnson, S. D., 5 January 1900, p. 1; born New York State; 69 years old; survived by widow and four children; Bert Johnson was only son; buried new City Cemetery; funeral Sunday Dec 24

Unnamed Choctaw, 12 January 1900, p. 1; died at home of J. P. Hallman near Ultimathule; thought to have died from smallpox; taken into Territory

Hagen, Andrew, 19 January 1900, p. 1; killed in battle in the Philippine Islands on Jan 12; only son of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Hagen

Wilmer, Miss, 2 February 1900, p. 1; dau of Joseph Wilmer; abt 17 years old; died from burns when dress caught fire

Rountree, Tom, 9 February 1900, p. 1; young man accidentally shot himself; no family

Humphrey, Martin J., 16 February 1900, p. 1; died Saturday morning of measles and pneumonia; buried Sunday at Mt. Ida cemetery; survived by wife and 3 children; pioneer in this part of the country

Hutton, Al, 2 March 1900, p. 1; fireman killed in Pullman Saw Mill explosion on Saturday

Thompson, Hoover, 2 March 1900, p. 1; killed in Pullman Saw Mill explosion on Saturday

Head, infant, 9 March 1900, p. 1; infant son of Mr. and Mrs. Jas. D. Head, died Sunday, less than 1 week old

Reesce, 9 March 1900, p. 1; birth of son to Mr. and Mrs. David Reesce on Friday

Merideth, 9 March 1900, p. 1; birth of son to Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Merideth on Friday

Hagen, son, 23 March 1900, p. 1; son of J. H. Hagen killed in the Philippines short time ago; body in state at Methodist church with funeral there later
Pettus, Andrew Jackson, 30 March 1900, p. 1; about 17, enlisted first at Temple, Texas Nov 17, 1898; mustered out in Dallas in April 1899, reenlisted June 13; killed in action at San Jacinto, in the Island of Luzon, Nov 11, 1899 [Spanish American War]; funeral at Methodist church Wednesday; brother of Mrs. J. H. Hagen, parents died while in infancy; adopted son of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Hagen

Scott, John, 30 March 1900, p. 1; fireman killed in mill explosion on Wednesday

Young, F. B., 30 March 1900, p. 4; born March 12, 1824 in Kentucky; died February 23, 1900 in Pullman

Pettus, Andrew Jackson, 6 April 1900, p. 1; son of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Hagen

Beck, 6 April 1900, p. 1; birth of son to Dr. and Mrs. Beck on Tuesday

Gortney, William, 6 April 1900, p. 4; age 78, died August 28, 1899 near DeQueen, born in Alcorn county, Miss., July 8, 1821; married first to Kisey Airse in 1842 to whom 11 children born only 3 surviving; married second to Matilda Pikes in March 1867 who died December 18, 1898; Methodist until October 19, 1881 when he and wife joined Cumberland Presbyterian church

Hannah, Mrs. W. C., 13 April 1900, p. 4; died at residence of her son near Chapel Hill Wednesday; lived in Sevier county many years

Hallman, 20 April 1900, p. 1; birth of dau to Mr. and Mrs. S. R. Hallman

Hannah, Will, 4 May 1900, p. 1; son of W. C. Hannah died Monday, April 30 from pneumonia; came home from University at Fayetteville three weeks earlier when his mother died; buried at the Masonic Hall near Ultima Thule on Tuesday

McCrary, Dr. Andy, 4 May 1900, p. 1; died Sunday; of Horatio; brother to Mrs. Dr. Morgan of this city
Whisenhunt, Alex, 4 May 1900, p. 1; died at his home east of town

Cox, Hattie G., 11 May 1900, p. 4; dau of Roland and Mary Dox; one year, one month and ten days old; died January 9, 1900 near Lockesburg

Couch, W. J., 18 May 1900, p. 1; died Wednesday at his home in this city; one of Sevier county’s oldest citizens; conducted a boarding house; buried Thursday

Nethery, W. W., 1 June 1900, p. 1; died May 25, buried at Mill Creek cemetery; Confederate veteran from St. Augustine county, Texas; lived in Sevier county since 1873

Stevens, 8 June 1900, p. 1; birth of son to Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Stevens

Humphrey, 22 June 1900, p. 1; Birth of son named Robert Nelson to Mr. and Mrs. David Humphrey on Friday, June 8

Brown, Dr. E. M., 22 June 1900, p. 1; U.C.V. memorial services to be held first Sunday in August

Whissenhunt, A., 22 June 1900, p. 1; U.C.V. memorial services to be held first Sunday in August

Couch, W. J., 22 June 1900, p. 1; U.C.V. memorial services to be held first Sunday in August

Nethery, W. W., 22 June 1900, p. 1; U.C.V. memorial services to be held first Sunday in August

Roberts, James, 29 June 1900, p. 1; struck and killed by passenger train on Saturday; young man; half brother of William Merideth of this city

Vollentine, Mrs. T. A., 29 June 1900, p. 1; died at her home in Louisiana on Friday; recently moved there

Cope, Mr., 6 July 1900, p. 1; young man drowned in Rolling Fork
Vollentine, Mrs. T. A., 6 July 1900, p. 1; died June 22 at home at Mr. Vollentine’s brother-in-law in Caldwell Parish, Louisiana

Downes, W. S., 13 July 1900, p. 1; found dead in bed; buried Tuesday at Redman’s cemetery; old citizen of this city

Wilson, 13 July 1900, p. 1; birth of son to Mr. and Mrs. Adolphus Wilson last Friday

Blackstock, P. E., 20 July 1900, p. 1; died at Baird, Texas; was reared in this county

Carr, Judson, 10 August 1900, p. 1; died Thursday at home in Pullman of congestion; funeral Friday; six year old son of Mr. and Mrs. C. R. Carr

Locke, William Senter, 10 August 1900, p. 1; grandparents Rev. W. E. Dooley and wife of Lockesburg here Tuesday to attend funeral

Locke, William Senter, 10 August 1900, p. 1; died August 6, 1900; born January 24, 1900; buried Red Men’s Cemetery August 7; son of Mr. and Mrs. George T. Locke

Brown, Dr. E. M., 10 August 1900, p. 1; memorial services held by John H. Morgan Camp U. V. C. Sunday for deceased brothers passed away in the past 12 months

Couch, W. J., 10 August 1900, p. 1; memorial services held by John H. Morgan Camp U. V. C. Sunday for deceased brothers passed away in the past 12 months

Nethery, W. W., 10 August 1900, p. 1; memorial services held by John H. Morgan Camp U. V. C. Sunday for deceased brothers passed away in the past 12 months

Whisenhunt, A., 10 August 1900, p. 1; memorial services held by John H. Morgan Camp U. V. C. Sunday for deceased brothers passed away in the past 12 months
Hicks, E. A., 10 August 1900, p. 1; memorial services held by John H. Morgan Camp U. V. C. Sunday for deceased brothers passed away in the past 12 months

Caveness, 10 August 1900, p. 1; memorial services held by John H. Morgan Camp U. V. C. Sunday for deceased brothers passed away in the past 12 months

Locke, William Senter, 10 August 1900, p. 1; died Monday August 6; funeral Tuesday; 6-month-old son of Mr. and Mrs. George T. Locke

Smith, 17 August 1900, p. 1; birth of girl to Mr. and Mrs. F. M. Smith

Locke, William Senter, 17 August 1900, p. 1; in memory of; signed L. A. P.

Upton, Hilry, 24 August 1900, p. 1; accidentally shot and killed Tuesday of last week while hunting with brother and man named Belcher; son of well-to-do farmer north of Lockesburg; about 21 years old

Black, Nannie, 24 August 1900, p. 1; died Thursday; buried Friday at Red Men’s cemetery; infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. T. N. Black

Scott, Mr. J. P., 31 August 1900, p. 1; died at Bellah Mines; of Springfield, Missouri

Cooper, Lacona, 31 August 1900, p. 1; died August 23, 1900 at home of parents P. W. and Emma Cooper after illness of 4 days; born December 23, 1892

Denson, Floy White, 31 August 1900, p. 1; in remembrance of; son of Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Denson of Fairview

McDonald, M. E. T., 7 September 1900, p. 1; died August 31, 1900; aged 67 years; wife of Rev. D. W. McDonald

Hopson, Mr. N., 14 September 1900, p. 1; of Paracilton; died Sunday at home of daughter Mrs. A. N. LaGrone of this city; “Uncle Nat”; in
his 76th year; buried at Paraclifta, survived by wife and several children

LaGrone, M. M., 21 September 1900, p. 1; of Benlomond, died last Saturday; buried Sunday at Lockesburg cemetery; brother of A. N. LaGrone of this city

Black, Nanna Leallia, 28 September 1900, p. 2; “In Memoriam” from Mrs. T. N. Black; died August 16; turned 5 months old on August 12

Murphy, Mrs. R. D., 28 September 1900, p. 1; of Lockesburg; died Thursday; buried Friday; member of Cumberland Presbyterian church; leaves a husband

Tucker, Mrs., 28 September 1900, p. 1; died last Sunday; leaves husband and 4-day-old baby; “Mill Creek” column

Woody, Sallie Alberta, 5 October 1900, p. 1; died Thursday, September 20, at home two miles east of Avon; 18-month-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Woody

Walker, Mrs. Mary Ellen, 5 October 1900, p. 1; died September 26 at Yorkville, South Carolina; widow of late Dr. Wm. M. Walker; sister of Col. J. R. Hudson of DeQueen

Maus, 12 October 1900, p. 4; birth of girl to Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Maus last Sunday

Smith, 19 October 1900, p. 1; birth of boy to Mr. and Mrs. James A. Smith Wednesday

Cook, 19 October 1900, p. 1; birth of boy to Mr. and Mrs. Richard Cook

Russell, 19 October 1900, p. 1; birth of girl to Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Russell

Brown, Earl, 19 October 1900, p. 1; infant son of Mr. and Mrs. E. Brown of Avon died Wednesday; about 13 months old
Shield?, 16 November 1900, p. 1; died in St. Louis; sister of M. M. Shield

Winters, Harry, 23 November 1900, p. 1; died Saturday at home of parents Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Winters west of town

Winters, Olive, 23 November 1900, p. 1; died November 6; daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Winters

Castleberry, J. B., 23 November 1900, p. 1; died last Tuesday at his home about 2 miles west of DeQueen; about 60 years of age; leaves wife and several children

Cole, William, 23 November 1900, p. 5; died Monday of pneumonia at his home south of Ultima Thule; buried in old Chapel Hill cemetery Tuesday

Brazel, Mr., 23 November 1900, p. 5; died Monday; “Cerro Gordo Chat” column

Ogden, Captain W. R., 30 November 1900, p. 1; died November 21, 1900 at Cerro Gordo, Little River county; aged 63; Civil War veteran; leaves wife and children who were all with him except Mrs. Jno. A. Bunch

Brown, Jim, 30 November 1900, p. 1; killed last Tuesday by accidental discharge of his own gun while on his way home from purchasing the gun in DeQueen; son of Geo. Brown

Harris, 30 November 1900, p. 1; man killed in explosion at Ellis Short’s mill at Granness last Monday

Batson, 30 November 1900, p. 1; man killed in explosion at Ellis Short’s mill at Granness last Monday

Davis, Mattie T., 30 November 1900, p. 4; died November 22, 1900 of pneumonia at home of parents 4 miles south of DeQueen; daughter of B. S. and Ellen Davis; born April 25, 1883; leaves father, mother, and six sisters; buried Chapel Hill cemetery
Burson, 30 November 1900, p. 5; daughter born to Mr. and Mrs. G. L. Burson last Saturday

Johnson, Mrs. J. F., 30 November 1900, p. 5; died at her home last Sunday; buried at Union cemetery on Monday; sister of Senator W. H. Collins

Johnson, Mrs. J. F., 30 November 1900, p. 8; died Sunday; wife of successful farmer living near Lockesburg; leaves husband and children; buried at Union cemetery Monday; “Lockesburg Locals” column

Mattingly, Miss, 30 November 1900, p. 8; died Monday morning near Avon; “Avon Arrows” column

Ogden, Capt. W. R., 30 November 1900, p. 8; died Wednesday November 21 in Cerro Gordo; body taken to Harrison, Ark., for burial; “Cerro Gordo Chat” column

Lee, Dr. J. R., 7 December 1900, p. 6; died Thanksgiving day; “Cerro Gordo Chat” column

Duke, Mr., 14 December 1900, p. 8; died last Wednesday; “Cerro Gordo Chat” column

Harris, John, 21 December 1900, p. 9; died in this city Wednesday, December 12; aged 40 years; buried in Red Men’s Cemetery Thursday; born in Nevada county; unmarried

McBride, Mr., 28 December 1900, p. 5; of Avon; died at Avon on Wednesday of last week; buried at Red Men’s cemetery last Thursday

McBride, Mr., 28 December 1900, p. 6; died at his home last week; buried by Masons at DeQueen; “Avon Arrows” column
Arkansas’s earliest tax records, without a doubt some of the state’s most valuable historical sources, contain yearly assessment information of both real estate and personal property, such as land, slaves, town lots, livestock, etc. Usually included in the information is the legal description of any lands assessed. These records were created by the county tax collector in each Arkansas county beginning as early as 1819. Under statutes in effect during this early period, two copies of each county tax book were created. One copy was kept in the county tax collector’s office, usually the sheriff’s office, at the local courthouse. It was used as a yearly "paid" tax book, in which information concerning the payment of taxes was recorded. Although most of these “paid” books did not survive the Civil War, several examples can be found in the microfilmed county records for Pulaski and Independence counties. The other yearly tax assessment book was sent to the State Auditor's office in Little Rock where it was checked for accuracy and kept by that office.

Regrettably, beginning in 1869 a new system of tax assessment and payment was introduced into Arkansas. Real and personal property information was divided and recorded in separate volumes. Two additional records, one for real estate and the other for personal property, were created and used for recording payment information. A separate tax receipt book was also added. Copies of the assessment books were no longer sent to the state auditor's office. The only copies created were kept at the local courthouses.

About 1912 Arkansas History Commission (AHC) staff members discovered what was left of Arkansas’s very earliest tax records, evidently abandoned by the State Auditor’s office many years before, stacked on a dirt floor in the basement of what is now Little Rock's Old State House. As one can imagine, individual volumes had suffered various degrees of damage. Many, like Greene and Scott counties, were damaged by termites or were missing. Since that time, the volumes have been in the custody of the History Commission. During the 1930s, an

1 Mr. Baker recently retired after nearly forty years as an archivist at the Arkansas History Commission.
attempt was made by WPA workers to bind all of the surviving volumes. However, the project met with very limited success. During the 1960s, all of the surviving volumes were microfilmed by the History Commission in order to make them more accessible to researchers. Copies of the individual rolls of this microfilm are filed in the Commission’s Research Room with the Arkansas county records on microfilm. The Genealogical Society of Utah (LDS) created a separate microfilmed set in the late 1990s. A copy of this set of film is filed at the History Commission in its General Microfilm File under "Tax Records.” When at the History Commission, ask for the film by the record series number 00001890, and then the AHC roll number listed below for the county you wish to search. Because copies of the films may be obtained on loan through most Mormon (LDS) Family History Centers and Libraries across the nation, the LDS roll number for this last filming is included also. Visit www.FamilySearch.org for locations of LDS Family History Centers and Libraries.

**Early Tax Records on Microfilm at the Arkansas History Commission**

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The John Hall family lived in the community of Scotland in western Van Buren County, Arkansas. Though slightly obscured, John Hall’s embossed name is still partially visible on the well-worn cover of his Bible. The Bible was published in 1886 or after, indicating that much of the family information was recorded some time after the actual occurrence of the events. All of the births appear to have been recorded at the same time in the same handwriting and with the same instrument. The marriages and deaths, however, were written in two different hands. The change in handwriting appears to have occurred between 1892 when the last child was born and 1896 when the second son married.

John Hall was married to Margeret L. Webb Jan 6th 1871
Robt J Hall was married to Mintie E. Casinger April 30, 1896
John T. Hall was married to Lousinda J Gardner Feb 8th 1891
Sallie A. Hall was married to Nathan A. Simpson Aug 11 1898
Cleveland H. Hall was married to Nancy Hardester Oct 2, 1906
Grover L. Hall was married to Minnie Hatchett Aug 6, 1908
Ollie A. Hall was married to William Measlin Sept 13, 1908
Harvey J. Hall was married to Sallie Owen Cattrell June 16, 1912
John Hall was married to Margaret Smith Jan 6th 1871.

Rebecca Hall was married to George Bassinger April 12th

John Hall was married to Elizabeth Porter Nov 19th

Sallie A Hall was married to Nathaniel Emerick Aug

Cleveland A Hall was married to Nancy Keachester Oct 13th

James A Hall married Minnie Hatfield Aug 14th

Ellie A Hall married Williams McAden Sept 13th

Harvey J Hall married Sallie Owen Cotton June
John Hall Born May 29th 1857
Maggie Hall Born Jan 26th 1857
Robert J. Hall Born Oct 7th 1871
John A. Hall Was Born July 27th 1873
Bea H. Hall Was Born Sept 15th 1875
Sallie A. Hall Was Born Dec 20th 1877
Nancy J. Hall Was Born Oct 25th 1879
Andrew J. Hall Was Born March 7th 1880
Kipit Hall Was Born March 15th 1882
Helen D. Hall Was Born Sept 23rd 1884
Grant J. Hall Was Born May 13th 1886
Earl A. Hall Was Born July 19th 1888
Alice A. Hall Was Born Dec 20th 1889
Sallie A. Hall Was Born Jan 9th 1892
John Hall Died Oct. 12th 1936
Mary L. Hall Died Jan. 11th 1924
Robert Jeff Hall Died Feb 3 1937

Died August 31st 1876
Died November 23rd A.D. 1942
Died Oct 27th A.D. 1877

Died Jan 10th A.D. 1882

Died July 14th 1891
Died December 18th A.D. 1941
BIRTHS

John Hall Born May 29th A.D. 1851
Margeret L. Hall Born Jan 6th A.D. 1851
Robert J. Hall Born Oct 7th AD 1871
John T. Hall Was Born July 27th 1873
Rosa E. Hall Was Born Sept 15th 1875
Sallie Ann Hall Was Born Dec 20th 1877
Nancy J. Hall Born Oct 28th 1879
Harvy J Hall Was Born March 15th 1881
Infant Babe unnamed Borned Jan 15th 1882
Cleveland H. Hall was Born Oct 23rd 1884
Grover L. Hall was Born Aug 19th 1886
Ola L. Hall was Born July 17th 1888
Ollie A. Hall was Born Dec 2nd 1889
Sallie Sherman Hall was Born Jan 9th 1892

DEATHS

[The Deaths page faced the Births page and most of the death dates were written without rewriting the name of the deceased, which was on the same line of the facing page. The names which were not rewritten on the Deaths page are in brackets below. There were no death entries for John T. Hall, Harvy J. Hall, Cleveland H. Hall, Grover L. Hall, and Sallie Sherman Hall.]

John Hall Died A.D. Oct. 12th 1936
Margeret L. Hall Died June 11th 1924
Robert Jeff Hall Died Feb 5 1937

[Rosa E. Hall] Died August 31st 1876.
[Sallie Ann Hall] Died February 23 A.D. 1942
[Nancy J. Hall] Died Oct 29th A.D. 1879

[Infant Babe unnamed] Died Jan 15th A.D. 1882

[Ola L. Hall] Died July 14th A.D. 1889
[Ollie A. Hall] Died December 18th A.D. 1941
The “prior” Arkansas birth certificates currently being indexed by the Arkansas Genealogical Society routinely yield a variety of interesting family information.

When Donald Chester Parker filed his “prior” birth certificate in October of 1951, it contained an unusual amount of detailed information.1 In addition to the specific places of birth of his parents, his mother’s maiden name and his sister’s married name, the certificate contains his father’s death date.

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1 Donald Chester Parker “Prior” Birth Certificate, 1951 filing, volume 43, certificate 9956; Arkansas Department of Health, Division of Vital Records, Little Rock, Arkansas.
Donald recorded that he was born in Knoxville, Johnson County, Arkansas, on 6 May 1906. He gave his father’s name as Frank P. Parker and his mother’s as Laura Ellen Berkshire and said they were ages 56 and 48 respectively at the time of his birth. His father had been born in Dallas, Texas, and his mother in Springfield, Illinois. Donald also noted that he was the tenth child born to his mother.

The affidavit testifying to the facts of the birth was signed in Kay County, Oklahoma, by Sara B. Gilley, age 61, who said she was Donald’s sister.

Perhaps the most interesting and unusual piece of information on the certificate is the death date of Donald’s father Frank Parker. In answer to the question “Where was Father living at the time of this birth?” Donald printed “Died May 5, 1906.” That was the day before Donald’s birth. As with births, Arkansas did not require the reporting of deaths to the state until 1914, so there is no official death record for Frank P. Parker. Because the two events occurred so close together, Donald documented his father’s death in the process of creating documentation of his own birth.

Seven large books of index to Prior Births and a cumulative CD of all seven volumes have been published so far by the Arkansas Genealogical Society. They comprise prior certificates filed in 1941 through 1955 and include all births occurring up to and including 1908 that were recorded in those years of filing.
OBITUARY OF HENRY M. RECTOR

Submitted by Bill Hanks

FORMER GOVERNOR Henry M. Rector Died in Little Rock Yesterday. He Was Identified With Much of the Early History of Arkansas.

Ex-Gov. Henry M. Rector died at 10 o’clock yesterday morning at his residence, 405 West Third street, after a fight of several months with death. He had been in very feeble health for several years and during the past six months he was thought several times to be near the end. The immediate cause of his death is given as senile bronchitis. During the past week he had weakened gradually and all realized that he was not to live much longer. Wednesday he was received into the M. E. Church, South, by Rev. James Thomas, presiding elder of this district. He became unconscious early yesterday morning and remained in that condition until his death. His three daughters, several grandchildren and his physician, Dr. Hudspeth, were at his bedside when the end came. His sons arrived in the city late yesterday afternoon. Two sons, Hon. E. W. Rector and Dr. Henry M. Rector of Hot Springs, and three daughters, Mesdames Ernestine Brunson and Nannie Matheny of Hot Springs and Mrs. Mitchell of Texas, survive him.

The funeral will take place at 5 o’clock Monday afternoon from his late residence and the remains will be interred in Mount Holly cemetery. All friends and acquaintances of the family are invited to attend.

Henry Massy Rector, seventh governor of Arkansas, was born in Fountain’s Ferry, near Louisville, Ky., May 1, 1816, the eldest son of Elias and Fanny B. (Thurston) Rector. His first American ancestor was a native of Wurtemberg, Saxony, and settled in Fauquier county, Virginia, in early colonial days. Here he brought up his son, John Rector, who afterwards became the father of thirteen children, four of whom were girls. The eldest, Ann, married Thomas Conway, and had six sons, two of whom, James S. and Elias N. Conway, became eventually governors of Arkansas. The nine brothers were all soldiers in the war of 1812. Elias Rector was the second of these, being born in Virginia about 1785. His wife, Fanny B., was the daughter of Hon. John Thurston of Louisville,

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1 Arkansas Gazette, Little Rock, Arkansas, Sunday, 13 August 1899, 6:1.
Ky., a descendant of a Virginia family who distinguished themselves by their services during the revolutionary war and were rewarded by a large grant of land near Louisville, Ky. Elias and Fanny Rector had seven children, of whom Henry M. was the only one who lived to attain his majority. He was brought up in St. Louis, Mo., where his father died in 1822, leaving him heir to large landed estates. Some of these, in the vicinity of Hot Springs, Ark., were afterwards appropriated by the government. His mother married a second time and the boy was brought up by his stepfather, Gen. Stephen Trigg, receiving his early education at home. When he was 13 he was set to work in his stepfather’s salt works and afterwards attended school for one year in Louisville, Ky. In 1835 he removed to Arkansas to claim possession of the landed legacies left him in this state by his father.

In 1839 he married the accomplished Miss Jane Elizabeth Field, daughter of Col. Wm. Field, clerk of the United States circuit and district court for Arkansas, and niece of Gov. John Pope. In the same year he was chosen teller of the state bank, which position he resigned after eighteen months and embarked in farming near Collegeville, Saline. In the meantime he read the best text writers on law, but did not enter into active practice for some years afterward. In 1842 he was appointed United States marshal for the district of Arkansas by President Tyler and held the office until he was succeeded by his cousin, Maj. Elias Rector, under Polk’s administration. The office came to him without solicitation. In 1848 after a most exciting canvass he was elected to the state senate. Subsequently he was appointed United States surveyor-general of Arkansas and held office until the state surveys were completed. In 1854 he opened a law office in Little Rock and practiced for several years confining himself chiefly to criminal law. The following year he was again elected to the legislature, and in 1859 was elected to the supreme court of Arkansas. In 1860 he ran as Independent Democrat candidate for the office of governor, and after a canvass notable for the intense bitterness shown by the different parties, he was elected.

April 22, 1861, in reply to a request from Secretary of War Simon Cameron he sent the following letter, which was greatly distorted by the northern press: “In answer to your requisition for troops from Arkansas to subjugate the southern states I have to say that none will be furnished, the demand adding insult to injury. The people of this state are free men, not slaves, and will defend to the last extremity their honor, lives and
Henry M. Rector

property against northern mendacity and usurpation. (Signed) Henry M. Rector, Governor of Arkansas”

He had already seized the arsenal at Little Rock and the one at Fort Smith, with all arms, munitions and stores. In May, 1861, a military board of three members, one of whom was the governor, was appointed to organize and equip an army, which was done to the extent of forty regiments, sent eventually to fight for the Confederate cause. The revolutionary convention of 1861 had omitted in its enactments to continue the office of governor, and a contest arose over the question, and the state supreme court declared the office vacant. Thus Gov. Rector became a private citizen two years before the expiration of his term. He then applied for a commission in the regular army, but being denied this, entered the reserve corps as a private and participated in frequent engagements until the close of the war. The cessation of hostilities found him heart-broken by the loss of two sons, who died for the Confederacy, and also completely impoverished, both his farms having been devastated, but with no broken spirit he and his two surviving sons set to work to gain a livelihood by transporting cotton overland from Hempstead county to Little Rock in wagons and raising a crop on their land. The former governor was a member of the constitutional convention from Garland county and assisted in framing the state’s organic law. This was the last of a long series of brilliant political services rendered the state in the most eventful period of southern history.

Gov. Rector’s wife died in 1837 and in 1860 he married Miss Ernestine Flora Linde of Memphis, she dying in this city April 3, 1899.
Arkansas Territorial Ancestry Certificate
for Jamie L. Harris

Submitted by Jamie L. Harris
7476 Peaceful Brook St.
Las Vegas, NV 89131-2524
702-256-9820
jamie331mrg@yahoo.com

Jamie L. Harris received a Certificate of Arkansas Ancestry for the Territorial period based on documentation submitted for the following lineage. The Territorial ancestor was Maria, wife of Emanuel Gibbons. Maria was born in Arkansas, between 1830-1832 per the 1870 and 1880 censuses.
Members may submit as many queries as they wish at any time. E-mail to Publications@agsgenealogy.org or post to AGS, PO Box 26374, Little Rock, AR 72221-6374.

**BRADLEY** – Seeking info on “Loss” Bradley, son of Hugh Lawson & Sue Pickett Bradley. 1900 census lists him living w/ father & sister, Willie. “Loss” was born 1882 in Bradley Co AR and lived in Dallas Co AR in the early 1900s. He was the nephew of Capt Hugh Bradley of Bradley Co AR. **Ann Bradley Summers**, 2835 Kendra Drive, Louisville, TN 37777-3813, abs4230@aol.com

**FINLEY** – I’m looking for a license for William Isaac Rolend Finley as a riverboat captain on the White River in AR in the 1890+ era. Any suggestions? **Patsy R. Finley**, 5371 W Hwy 56, Burlingame, KS 66413, comandr@embargmail.com


**HUGHES – POND** – Please help us find the parents of Jesse Hughes and his wife Mary Ann! All we know comes from censuses except that he bought land in Clark Co AR. They were in Hot Spring Co AR in 1850 where the census shows he was born in NC. In the 1880 census his dau says he was born in MS. Mary Ann b abt 1820 AL. Son Columbus b abt 1840 MS, William b abt 1842 TN, Susan Elizabeth (our ancestor) b abt 1844 AR, Sam H b abt 1856 AR. Mary Ann was a widow in 1860. Susan Elizabeth m William A Pond in 1861. They moved to Grayson Co TX bef 1867. We know a little about the descendents of Jesse Hughes and Mary Ann (especially the Ponds) but can find nothing on their ancestry. Tiniest hint sincerely appreciated. **Betty Smithson**, 159 W 200 N, Apt 302, Salt Lake City, UT 84103-4537, spsmithson829@hotmail.com
MARTIN – Seeking information on Marcus & Della Martin who lived in Newton Co AR. Who were Della’s parents, siblings? Marcus & Della’s children? Grandchildren? Any information will be appreciated. Margery Wheeler, 10814 Candlewood Dr., Houston, TX 77042-1302, wheelerwm@aol.com

McCASLIN – Looking for parents of Dave M McCaslin b 1859, d 1923 Barling, Sebastian Co, AR. Robert E. McCaslin, Jr., 10310 Olympia Drive, Houston, TX 77042-2956, RobertMcCaslin@yahoo.com

McCOMBS – McCOMB – LEE – HUNTER – Looking for descendants, stories, photos relating to any of the following: Family of Matthew McCombs b 1846, Columbus, Hempstead Co AR, d 1929 Haworth, McCurtain Co OK, Civil War veteran & farmer, and Emma Ophelia (Lee) McCombs b 1866 Mineral Springs, Sevier Co AR, d 1943 Haworth, McCurtain Co OK. Family of John J McComb b 1817 Christian Co KY, d 1873 Brownstown, Sevier Co AR; and Sarah Jane (Hunter) McComb b 1825 Hempstead Co AR, d 1883 Brownstown, Sevier Co AR. Stephen M “Dock” Lee b abt 1835 TN, d ? TX, and M Catherine (Baird) Lee b 1841, d 1904 Mineral Springs, Sevier Co AR. Hardy Hunter – first white settler in SW AR, son of Nicholas Hunter. Richard L. Thurn, PO Box 391, Livingston, AL 35470-0391, rlt@uwa.edu

MURPHY – WEST – BARTON – I need the date and place of death of Richard Murphy b 1776 Bedford Co VA. He m Susannah West abt 1816. She d abt 1820 Lawrence Co AR. Richard was said to have gone to TX after her death. He was son of William Murphy and Sarah Barton. Peggy Wilkins, 15011 Sweet Gum Dr, Alexander, AR 72002, prwilkins1@juno.com

PASCHALL – PASCHAL – SUGGS – I’m looking for information on the parents of Della (Dilla/Dillah) Suggs, wife of O. C. Paschall. They lived in Logan Co AR and are buried at the Caulksville Cemetery. Angie Smith, 140 Mariwood Ln, Dover, AR 72837, 479-970-9421, pinksmitchick@yahoo.com
PENN – Seeking contact with other descendants of John and Rebecca Penn. Rebecca’s will probated 1865 in Johnson Co AR. Linda Roush, Linda_Roush1952@yahoo.com

SULLIVAN – LAWRENCE – Seeking info on John W Sullivan, abt 1838 to 1864, Pulaski/Independence Co AR and Bryant R Lawrence, abt 1811 to 1894, Independence Co AR. Ron Sullivan, 133 Felps Ct., Colleyville, TX 76034, viohow@msn.com

TROUT – VAUGHN – Looking for information on Robert D Trout (b 1 Nov 1822 TN; d abt 1863) m Anna C Vaughn (b 11 Oct 1822) 27 July 1843. Children: Parrilee Lewisa (b 18 Aug 1844), Tittitha Tennessee (b 4 Oct 1846; d 7 Aug 1854); Philemon H (b 2 Oct 1848; d 22 Jul 1878); Nancy Caroline (b 24 Nov 1850; d 23 Sep 1917); Margaret (b 10 Mar 1855); Isaac Robert (b Apr 1858), and Susan Catherine (b 15 Oct 1862). Parents? Siblings? My line: Nancy Caroline Trout m Edward Francis Morris>Ada Eliza Morris m John Franklin Page>Fred Obren Page m Maggie Nix Brooks> Ada Evelyn Page m Clarence Swaim> John David Swaim. Margaret Nixon, 8807 Boulder Lane, Little Rock, AR 72227, mitchnix@sbcglobal.net

WALKER – YOUNG – SYKES – BISHOP – Jesse Walker, Hempstead Co AR late 1800s-early 1900s; George Young, Hempstead Co AR late 1800-early 1900; Loyd Sykes; Sarah Bishop White, Ozan. Bill Sykes, 1314 E. 29th St., Kansas City, MO 64109, bragi_01@yahoo.com

WHITE – BISHOP – WALKER – SAMPSON – BROWN – STEWART – Seeking info on the following people all in Hempstead Co AR: Rich White, Sarah Bishop, Jesse Walker, Ardella Sampson, Sarah Brown, Ellen Stewart. Bill Sykes, 1314 E 29th St, Kansas City, MO 64109, bragi_01@yahoo.com

WOHLENBERG — Seeking information about Chas Wohlenberg, (Ernest Wilhelm Karl Wohlenberg) and family 1875-1895 of the Rich Mountain Area of Mena. One son taken by Indians and returned. Harold E. Wohlenberg, 1821 Annette Drive, Irving, TX 75061
Book Reviews


Mrs. Blackwell photographed all the monuments in Liberty Cemetery and wrote a family history for each family in this major project which spanned five years. She has reproduced many historic family pictures, documents, and personal papers. Numerous people were generous in sharing their priceless personal family items for printing in the book. You may order the book with black and white photographs, or for an additional cost, with color photographs. In my opinion the color edition is far superior when compared to the black and white. The scenes of the country roads, the church, the cemetery and Mount Magazine as well as the monuments are wonderful.

More than 3,800 persons are named, including residents, family members, friends, and neighbors. Personal information was transcribed from public records, such as birth, marriage, divorce and death certificates and indices; census and mortality schedules; tax lists; military registrations, muster rolls, transcripts, and pension records; court records, orders, patents, deeds, wills, and probates; histories, newspapers, and family histories. There are personal remembrances and family stories of descendants, who also submitted personal documents and family photos to bring the book to life.

The book contains an index to burials and a brief history of Logan County and of the Liberty community. Families are presented alphabetically with photos of their gravestones. There is also a list of burials by death date and an every name index to the text.

Mrs. Blackwell compiled the book as a gift to the Trustees of Liberty Cemetery and their successors for the purpose of generating not-for-profit funds to maintain the Liberty Cemetery grounds and structures in good condition.

Bill Hanks
Little Rock, Arkansas
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