

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

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

Glade Post Office & Store, circa 1890
20659 Slate Gap Rd., Garfield, AR

2021 NEWSLETTER #3

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

History reveals that Arkansas seceded from the United States on May 6, 1861; and joined the Confederacy on May 18, 1861. Then, President Abraham Lincoln was assassinated on April 15, 1865, and Vice President Andrew Johnson became President from 1865-1869. Johnson opposed political rights for freedmen and the pardons of former Confederate leaders. He disliked compromise, and his laws forced many Native Americans from their homes onto the Trail of Tears. Congress impeached Johnson, but he was acquitted and later returned to Congress as a Senator in 1875; and died a few months later. During those years, turmoil and devastation roiled this country followed by a reconstruction period till 1877.

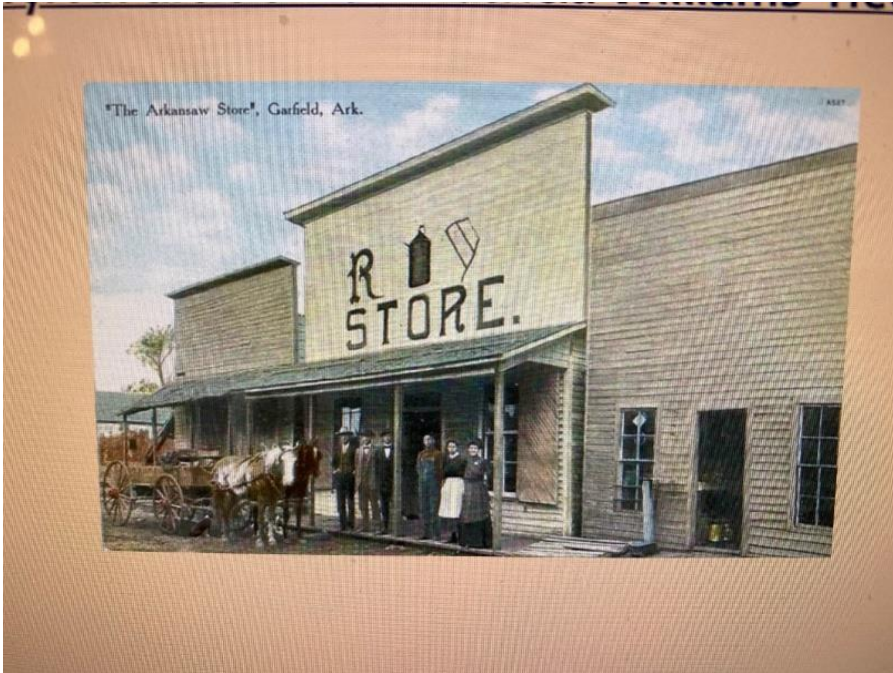
Following the war, Arkansas was readmitted to the union on June 22, 1868. Ulysses S. Grant was President from 1869-1877. His goals differed from Johnson's reconstruction policies. He wanted to enforce civil rights for recently freed African Americans. He stabilized the post war national economy, supported ratification of the 15th Amendment for voting rights and crushed the Ku Klux Klan. His Native American policy encouraged assimilation. After this daunting task, he died of throat cancer in 1885.

As Confederate states returned to the union, upheaval continued as the economy was in ruins. Towns had been destroyed and farms and supplies were low or depleted. The cost of the war was immense: human life, government expenditure and physical destruction from the war was \$3.3 billion. Confederacy currency and bank deposits were worthless, and all Southern economy was changed from an elite few slaveholders into a tenant farming agriculture system.

After the war, people sought a better life and this reconstruction period brought new life to Garfield, Arkansas. Garfield was known as Crowell in 1876— and had been called Blansett. Garfield is distinct because Whitney Mountain is the highest elevation in Benton County. It was previously known as Poor Mountain. In 1883, the village of Garfield was surveyed and laid out into lots. The Garfield post office was established in 1887, and by 1888, several stores existed. Albert Peel owned a store and was a cousin of Sir Robert Peel (1788-1850), an organizer of the London Police force. Another store belonged to Archibald Blansett in 1874, and he donated much land for the railroad. Mail arrived from Sugar Creek (1837), the third post office in Benton County to Elkhorn (1886-1896) was 3 miles west of Garfield and mail was delivered from there to town by horse and lock pouch.

By the year 1888, Garfield had many new settlers. The fruit evaporator was owned by D.D. Ames and the lumber yard by A.L.Rickets. The Arkansas Lime Works was owned by Peter McKinley. Also, he surveyed for the San Francisco Lines from St. Louis through Arkansas. In 1888 the Lime Works was manufacturing 200 barrels of lime per day besides making their own barrels. They employed about 75 men. A depot was established in 1884. Cattle drives ended at the stockyard and cattle were then shipped by railroad to Kansas City and St. Louis. One general store was three stories tall and belonged to Hira

C. Baker. On the third floor, Mrs. Baker sold women's clothes. Her specialty was dying and trimming their hats. The hats would be worn one summer, a natural color, and could later be dyed black for a different appearance. Females wore hats to church in those days.



Dorothy Ellis Robinson and her sisters shared their hats—oldest to youngest. The Baker store was famous for its sign: The Arkansas was written “R”—then a coal oil “can” picture and then a picture of a hand “saw.”

By 1888 no churches had yet been constructed, and the Christian and Baptist

demoninations alternately met at Garfield school which was built in 1887. Education was valued, and church schools, private schools and subscription schools developed in settlements because some parents did not read or write and wanted their children to be educated. In those early days, southern schools were limited and separated by race, and children usually walked to their school. Rural settlements built schools around Garfield and subscription schools: what the community funds could afford, developed in some areas.

Roller's Ridge was a name attached to Herd or Herd Switch east of Garfield, around Gateway. Freeling Osborne migrated to the Clantonville area before the Civil War and established a livestock farm

and nursery stock for rail service from Herd Switch. When the railroad came through the area in 1881, one of the Herds who was in the logging business asked for and got a railroad switch so he could load an entire car with railroad ties. That seems to be the origin of Herd Switch. Bayless or Herds Switch school was visible from Highway 62 and Gann Ridge Road. It was created as No. 34 on May 9, 1882. Mr. and Mrs. Bayless deeded land for \$5 for a school and religious worship. It no longer stands.

Clantonville, down the road toward Eureka Springs, had Fairview No. 1 schoolhouse and it was one of four Fairview schools. Both No. 1 and No.73 Fairview schools were annexed to Garfield

In those days, school numbers in Benton County were reused and caused a historical confusion. Fairview No. 73 was established in 1902 and was given a small part of the larger Ruddick School District No. 15, also called Ozark No. 15. William And Sarah Gardner sold an acre and a half for \$30 for the Ozark school to be built and Ozark no longer stands.

In those days, money and tax funds were quite limited and schools provided only 3 or 4 or 5, or sometimes 6 month terms. Liberty or Elkhorn School No. 14 began in 1877, according to Billie Jines, *Benton Country Schools that Were, Volume 1*. ProvidenceTaylor Branch School No. 125 was near the Snoderly Cemetery on Sugar Creek Road. Dorothy Ellis Ross, who saved much history of Garfield, wrote that Providence had many good teachers with college degrees. Clyde Ellis, her brother, graduated from the University of Arkansas. Years before he became a senator, he would take his students to observe at the University of Arkansas, in Fayetteville when there were

3 trains that ran south each day. That school annexed to Garfield in 1931.

Walnut Hill School No. 101 was built in 1889 when Delina Ratliff donated 3 acres of land for \$1 to build a church, school and burial grounds. The schoolhouse was up on a hill near where Taylor Branch empties into Little Sugar Creek. The cemetery remains. Nathan Ash, lived about 2 miles away, and went to school in his goat cart because of a congenital heart defect. Sadly, he died at age 20. Walnut Hill school consolidated to Garfield in 1944. Walnut Hill may have first been a subscription school with a school term of 3 months. Ruddick schoolhouse and cemetery may be the county's oldest country schoolhouse, and still stands about 3 miles from Garfield on State highway 127. It served as District No. 15 from 1884 till 1903 when it was replaced by a new school District 15 that was built down the road about a half mile and was named Ozark School.

It is believed that Ruddick existed as early as 1868. Land was given by Willam Ruddick and his wife, Elizabeth for \$10 for one acre. The deed was dated 1884, finalized December 21, 1885 and recorded March 13, 1888. The couple made their marks rather than sign their names, or they were unable to sign their names.

In those days Garfield was a busy, productive place. The Garfield depot shipped Eureka Springs drinking water all over the United States. Brought to Garfield for railroad shipment, the Radium Springs water was guaranteed "to cure all of your kidney ailments or your money back." The Garfield depot was busy with six trains a day. Ten schools consolidated to Garfield before Garfield consolidated to Rogers March 5, 1949. Not all ten schools are mentioned here, here

but more of these old stories will be told. And, gratitude to the women who contributed area history that would have been lost without their records. They are Billie Jines, former editor at Pea Ridge who wrote six books about the Benton County country schools; Wanda Mahurin who wrote The History of Garfield, and Dorothy Ross who compiled history of schools, stories of this area, and contributed to Benton County History. Thank you for sending your \$25 dues to Treasurer Sam Reynolds, 20916 Slate Gap Rd., Garfield, Arkansas 72732. Your support is deeply appreciated. And please check our website, gladehistory.org, to learn more about our organization. New board members are currently needed, and volunteers are always welcome. If you are interested, please contact Pat Heck, 479.366.4424.

The Glade Community Historical Society appreciates your continuing support. GCHS Board members are: Sam Reynolds (Treasurer), Ruth Billingsley, Judi Walter (Secretary), Dorothy Williams, Larry Hanner; Don Berndt, (Communication Director) and Patricia Heck (President). Thanks!