



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 #2

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

The Ozarks is shaped like a parallelogram with two large mountain ranges: the St. Francis in eastern Missouri rises approximately 1600 feet, and the Boston Mountains in northern Arkansas rises about 2000 feet, according to *The Ozark Land and Life*, Milton Rafferty. The Ozarks were an unexplored area when the French Creoles arrived in the United States in the 1600's and ruled for more than a hundred years until Spain took possession of the Louisiana Territory in 1770.

The southern ends of the Ozarks were explored by Frenchmen Marquette and Joliet, who traveled down to the mouth of the Arkansas River in canoes in 1673. Nine years later, in 1682, French explorer LaSalle traveled from Canada down the Mississippi to claim Louisiana. Another inland trip from the Gulf of Mexico ended when LaSalle was killed in Texas in 1687. Then in 1765, an English garrison arrived at Fort Chartres, in what is now Illinois, and the Spanish took formal possession of the area in 1770. The Spanish Lieutenant governors ruled the area from St. Louis, but French remained the official language. Illiteracy was prevalent in those days. There were few books and Roman Catholicism was the religion, by law. Then in 1803, Napoleon sold the Louisiana Territory to President Thomas Jefferson for 15 million dollars. During this time there was a steady growth in population as pioneers expanded westward. They established small hamlets or farms close to rivers and creeks because the uplands were poorer soil and lacked water sources.

Pioneers moved across the country as Native Americans were being displaced by the United States government, who had made treaties they did not honor. The tribes were pushed farther west from 1808 until mid-1820. In 1817, Georgia declared that it had the right to seize all Cherokee lands and property, despite the Cherokee Treaty of that year. By 1840, the remaining Cherokees had traveled the Trail of Tears to the western Ozarks. Tribes were pushed further westward, and by 1867 they were all pushed closer to Oklahoma Territory as they migrated from many parts of the United States.



In Arkansas, settlements progressed from larger river valleys to smaller tributaries to upland prairies. Ozark settlements developed slowly, but several people settled in northwest Arkansas during the 1870's. A northwestern

Arkansas hamlet was called Crowell in 1876, but it was officially changed on March 5, 1887, to Garfield; according to the book 'Handling the Mail in Benton County, Arkansas, 1836-1996' by George Phillips.

According to The History of Garfield, 1874-1996, Wanda Mahurin wrote that after the hamlet was established, lots were laid out in 1883, and the new railroad required a depot for their rail mail service. The depot was finished in 1884. Three men were appointed to come up with an official name for the town, and they fussed but decided on Garfield which has been rumored to be named after President Garfield, who was assassinated in 1881. By 1888, several Garfield stores existed: a hotel, a drug and jewelry store, two blacksmith shops, a barber shop, a lime kiln, and a fruit evaporator. Many cattle drives occurred on Old Wire Road, and the cattle were checked for cattle ticks at the Missouri state line before they could proceed.

As the town grew, structure was requested. A town meeting was held, and the people decided to petition the county to have the town incorporated. And

so it happened by order of County Judge A. Cordell, on September 16, 1888. Two cafes and a bank followed, two doctors, a school, a couple of saloons, a lumber yard, and there was a stockyard that kept hogs and cattle to be shipped to Kansas City and St. Louis each Thursday by a special train.

Following incorporation, Garfield established strict laws: If you broke the law you had to appear in court to stand trial, and seldom did you escape without paying a fine. It was illegal to miss a payment on an account in town. Disturbing the peace or using profane language or fighting on the streets of Garfield was against the law. Working on Sundays was against the law. The railroad came through Garfield with six passenger trains. Three were southbound and three were northbound. And there were two churches in Garfield: Baptist and the Church of Christ.

Saturday was the day that the folks from miles around came to town to do their shopping for the next week. They came by horse, in buggies, in wagons and by foot. Stores were crowded, and in those days, you took your shopping list to the clerk and he gathered your supplies, placed them on the counter and added the total with a pencil and paper. The Lime Kiln was north of town in Lime Kiln Holler. The limestone was mined and then dried in a furnace until it became chalky and broke down into lime. Then it cooled and the lime was taken out and put into barrels for shipment. The barrels were made on the site by men who were called coopers. After the kiln was cooled and the lime removed, it was cleaned and made ready for another firing. During this time, men continued to work in the quarry, getting out more limestone for another burn, and a crew was kept busy cutting and hauling the wood for the kiln. It was a large operation. Around 1914-1915, the kiln burned and was never rebuilt.

Around this time, Garfield had a livery stable, which had horses and buggies for hire that were mostly used by traveling salesmen, drummers, who came to town by train and needed a rig for local travel. There was an apple dryer in Garfield located in the little draw just east of the school, and 8 to 10 hand powered peelers were run by women. Women spiked an apple, grabbed the crank, and turned it by hand to peel & core the apples. Then apples would go to the slicer which was run by a man with a manual foot pedal. Afterwards, they were placed in a sulfur bath to make the fruit hold its color,

and off to the dryer room where the apple slices were heated by several wood furnaces in the level below. Floor slats were spaced a half inch apart and the apples were turned with a large scoop shovel to dry consistently.

The depression of the 1930's meant grief for the Ozarks. Many people left to find work, but Garfield still had two grocery stores, a barber shop, the post office and depot, the school and churches and the Masonic Lodge. A gas station and the local canning factory survived, but the booming town was no more. Garfield became a rural farming community with few job opportunities when the canning factory closed. People raised most of the food they ate, raised hogs, and had chickens and a cow or two. Money was needed for staples and taxes. People sold milk and eggs in Rogers. Electricity came in 1937.

On April 29, 1947, a tornado destroyed homes east of Garfield and several people were killed. More people moved away, and on March 5, 1949, Garfield High School was consolidated to Rogers. A short time later the junior high consolidated, but the Garfield Elementary remained and is operational today. Then in 1950, two stores burned and were not rebuilt. By 1960 the town census registered only 48 residents. Also in 1960, the area around Garfield was impacted by the construction of Beaver Lake and eminent domain. Farming stopped, and buildings were demolished, while dam construction occurred. Then, homes gone, people moved to surrounding towns or farther away. With the recreational areas and building of lake homes, the old dirt road to Lost Bridge was paved and became state highway 127 and people began seeking recreation and homes on the lake again. In 1962 Alvin Seamster opened his museum on highway 62 and Wallace and Ollie Scott also had a museum in town.

In Garfield, a water system was completed in 1969 that replaced springs and cisterns. Then, some of those water lines had to be moved when Highway 62 to Rogers was widened around 2013. Additional 1969 waterlines will be replaced soon. In 2003, some areas around Garfield received water from Beaver Lake through the Benton Washington Regional Public Water Authority (BWRPWA), commonly known as TWO-TON. The 2010 census listed 502 for the population, yet additional growth has been projected as more people discover the beauty of living in Garfield and in and around Beaver Lake.

Additional comments from your GCHS President, Patricia Heck:

It has been a long time since we gathered with our friends. The pandemic has isolated us for more than a year, and Governor Hutchinson has announced no more mask mandates beginning in April. But not everyone has been vaccinated, so we will proceed with caution. Hopefully, we will be able to meet in July, 2021.

For more information regarding the Glade Community Historical Society, please check out our website at www.gladehistory.org. And thank you for your continued support of The Glade Community Historical Society with your \$25 annual dues. 2021 dues can still be sent to Sam Reynolds, 20916 Slate Gap Road, Garfield, Arkansas 72732.

Speaking of Sam, if you or your group would like to take a tour of the Glade Post Office & Store, please contact Sam at 479.359.2042.

Glade Community Historical Society Board members: Patricia Heck (President), Sam Reynolds (Treasurer), Judi Walter (Secretary), Ruth Billingsly, Dorothy Williams, and Larry Hanner.