



## Cross County Historical Society

P. O. Box 943, Wynne, AR 72396

[www.cchs1862.org](http://www.cchs1862.org)

# Cross County *ERA*

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### New Hope School Listed on National Register

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Director Frances McSwain announced on December 5 that the New Hope School has been listed on the **National Register of Historic Places**, the country's official list of historically significant properties.

The 105-year-old two-room schoolhouse east of Wynne at 3762 Highway 284 is a wood-framed building constructed in 1903 and designed in the Plain Traditional Style of architecture. It is owned by the Cross County Historical Society, and was donated to the Society by Leo and Charlene Smith of Wynne.

Constructed to serve the community east of Wynne, the former one-room school building was home to Wynne School District 25.

"New Hope School is a good example of the architecture of turn-of-the-century, one-room schools. Though it has had additions and modifications since its construction, these vernacular additions were of similar construction and similar materials as the original buildings," states the National Register nomination.

Plans are to develop the building into a self-supporting store/welcome center for those traveling the Crowley's Ridge Parkway.

Help is needed toward grants requiring matching funds. To contribute, send your check to New Hope School, P. O. Box 943, Wynne, AR.



Cross County Museum  
711 East Union, Wynne

### CROSS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Carol Brown  
President

Vice President  
Donna Horton

Libby Washington  
Secretary

Michelle Slabaugh  
Treasurer

Johnny Wilson

Carol McCrary

Martin Smith

Eda Claire Slabaugh

John Smith

Ex-Officio Member  
Richard Hartness

### Changes Made in Cross County Historical Society

Some changes have been made in the Cross County Historical Society.

A new Board of Directors was elected at the annual membership meeting in October. Changes were made in the constitution and in the bylaws, and additional members were added to the Board of Directors.

Officers of the current Board are: president, Carol Brown; vice-president, Donna Horton; secretary, Libby Washington; and treasurer, Michelle Slabaugh. Past president Richard Hartness will remain as an ex-officio member.

The society decided to add two new directors to the Board. It was felt that there should be more directors than society officers, so as a result of the changes, there are five directors instead of three. Remaining on the board will be Johnny Wilson of Hickory Ridge and Carol McCrary of Wynne. Newly elected directors are Eda Clare Slabaugh of Parkin, Martin Smith of Birdeye, and John Smith of Wynne. The society members have tried to put in office people from different areas of the county. Members from as many areas as possible are needed because the society sponsors a county museum, not just a Wynne attraction.

The people serving as officers and Board members have volunteered to give their time and talents. **But if the county is truly going to make the museum a place to be proud of, other volunteers will be required to help.** The people in the county need to do everything possible to support the Cross County Historical Society's new Board of Directors and its officers. *They* will need all of *you*.

To volunteer, or make a donation, call CCHS president Carol Brown at 870-238-3815 or vice president Donna Horton at 870-633-1238.

### Museum Schedule

Tuesdays 10 - 4:00 with  
Florence Halstead  
Wednesday morning 10 -  
11:30 with Michelle  
Slabaugh  
Wednesday afternoons 1:00 -  
4:00 with Esther Killough  
Fridays 10 - 12; 1:00 - 4:00  
with Barbara Crawford  
Burkhart

## **President's Message**

By Carol Brown

Greetings friends and members of the CCHS:

I hope you all had a wonderful Holiday Season. I know I did. My family and I have many blessings for which we truly give thanks, and I want to thank those of you who elected me to lead this organization for the next year.

We have a great new board of directors, each with good talents to share. At our first meeting we discussed some of our goals for the coming year. Of course our main goal for the next several years will be to build our new exhibit space in our two existing class spaces. As most of you know, last year we received a planning grant. With the help of Capitol Exhibit Services, Inc, professional museum planners from the DC area, and about eight members of the CCHS, we have come up with an excellent plan to tell the story of Cross County. A story of how it came to be and how it grew into the community it is today. The story is told around three main themes: the Ridge, the Railroad, and Agriculture. This is truly an exciting adventure and will take all of us working together to get this wonderful museum up and running. Of course, this will take a lot of resources and several years, but together we will get a museum we will all be proud of. This is a story that will be of interest to those of us who lived part of it, to the families of local residents, and to visitors as well. I do plan to take the plans and drawings on the road to inform local civic groups of our ideas. Hopefully, this will help when we get into the fundraising mode.

Before we can start to build the permanent exhibit space, we must open another classroom space in the northeast corner of the building. This space will be used for meetings and for rotating exhibits. We will have a workday on a Saturday in January to tear out some of the walls. Everyone's help is needed. Hopefully we can finish this work within the next few months, mostly with volunteer workers.

During the next month, I will appoint a few committees to help with the work of the society. One will be a program committee. Since we will now have quarterly meetings of the Society instead of monthly meetings, we will want some interesting programs that will draw large attendance. If you are interested in serving on this committee, please let me know. I will also appoint a museum committee. This group will be taking care of the museum space, deciding how to use the rotating space and finding volunteers to work. If you would like to be part of this group, let me know. I want to involve everyone who wants to help. We need all of you.

One area we hope to improve on in the next year is governance. I have appointed a committee to rewrite our constitution and by-laws to better suit our needs. Another tool we will use to improve the operation and governance of the museum is the Hands-on Experiential Learning Project. HELP is a training project developed to address the specific needs of small museums' staff, volunteers, and trustees. HELP provides museums with on-site, affordable learning opportunities that further skills in areas critical to successful museums today. We are fortunate to be one of 20 Arkansas museums to be invited to participate in a 12-month training project. By the end of the year we will have learned many new skills to help us better serve the museum.

We also plan to have a day of training sometime in January for volunteers who would like to help at the museum in any way. We will have training on never-ending tasks such as accessioning, inventory, and cataloging documents and artifacts. We need all the help we can get for whatever time you can give. I'll be calling.

These are the few ideas the board has started with. By the end of this year we hope to have a strategic plan that will help us go forward for several years. If any of you have ideas, please share them with the board. We would love your input. Each of us has a roll to play and talents to share. After all, the museum belongs to all of us.

### **Generous Gifts Made to New Hope School**

In order to make a last minute contribution to a non-profit organization and at the same time, possibly triple the gift, several persons have generously donated a total of \$3300 to the New Hope School Restoration Project. The funds will be used as match for a potential grant from the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program (AHPP). The match to grant ratio is 1:2, so the match amount will be tripled! The AHPP may award up to \$80,000 and when matched will provide a total of \$120,000. We will apply to the AHPP by March 13, 2009.

Anyone else wishing to help increase the funding for this application should make the check to New Hope School, P. O. Box 943, Wynne, AR 72396.

**Do You Know?** What special status do Cross and Woodruff counties possess that no other county in Arkansas can claim?

### **Downtown Wynne Railroad Area Remembered by Edwin Harris of Harris Lumber Company**

There were several sets of MoPac railroad tracks in the downtown area. The main one was the north/south line that was parallel with Front St. Then another track west of there where the switch engines would park when they were not making up freight trains on the tracks behind Wilson St., and a 3rd track that had a pit where the steam engines would park when they were emptying coal ashes from the fire box.

There was a 4th track that was a Y and used when the engines would have to turn around to go in the opposite direction. Also it was used to serve Harris Lumber Company and Wynne Wholesale Grocery when we (and they) would get box car loads of lumber and/or groceries to unload.

The peach shed was located north of Union Street and near that two-story MoPac building that housed the dispatcher's office (Mr. Clarence Forbes was a dispatcher). There were other MoPac offices down stairs, and upstairs was a big room where social affairs were held.

During the height of the peach season, the shed would work on 24 hour shifts. Seems like I worked there a week or so when I was about 12 or 13 years old. I think the shed was next to one of the sets of tracks and they would park an empty box car next to it and slide the filled bushel baskets into the car to fill it up.

### **Mystery Picture Needs Your Information**

Leta Boone Franklin, former resident of Cross County, furnished the picture below. She is interested in learning anything concerning this photograph. Mrs. Franklin especially questions the validity of the date written on the photo.

The men seem to be attending an organized convention. Some of the men are wearing badges with different numbers of stripes attached, possibly for their years of service or for their status in the club.

The backdrop appears to be a photographer's backdrop used for taking group pictures.

Mrs. Franklin states that the man on the front of the ox is John Daniel Boone, Jr., born in 1874. The others are unidentified.

Anyone with information regarding the photo below, please contact Carol McCrary at 870-238-3684.



## A SHORT TRIP BACK TO THE OLD HOME TOWN

By Lt. Col. Marlin L. Call

It was a nagging itch. It was begging, demanding even, to be scratched. It wouldn't go away. It's likely that most young pilots have felt it. The younger the pilot, the more overpowering it is. Very young men are not blessed with good judgment until later in life, if ever. That's one reason very young men make good soldiers. They have a tendency to wade in and do the most impossible and dangerous deeds on a battlefield, and to hell with the consequences. In my case, the battlefield was inside my brain. I was battling the itch. I was beginning to lose the battle. I knew it was forbidden for me to scratch it, but it wouldn't stop itching. The itch probably goes all the way back to shortly after the Wright Brother's first flight at Kill Devil Hills, North Carolina, in December of 1903. I had a bad case of that itch. I'm talking about the itch to buzz the old home town in a military aircraft, the more powerful, faster and louder, the better.

I had been very fortunate, not just in the Air Force, but for my entire young life. Fortune had once again smiled upon me when I was assigned to Greenville (Mississippi) Air Force Base to finish the last six months of my pilot training, ending on May 12, 1954. The mission of the Base was to train young Air Force student pilots to become fighter pilots. They even gave you silver wings and the gold bars of a Second Lieutenant if you made it all the way to the end. It was a helluva good deal.

But back to the itch. I had finally made the decision to go ahead and scratch it, and at the very first opportunity. The route from Greenville to Wynne was simple. The heading was just a few degrees to the east of due north. I could navigate by the highways and railroad. The 100 nautical mile radius of the Greenville local flying area just barely kissed the edge of Colt, Arkansas. Wynne was almost within Greenville's local flying area. I would barely be busting the strict regulations. Would that be so bad? No, of course not. Available fuel would not be a problem. Time would not be a problem. It would require only twenty minutes each way. I would be solo, unsupervised. The plot was hatched. There would be no turning back.

That very first opportunity came on my first solo flight in the Lockheed T-33 jet aircraft. I was to take off, go practice air work until I used all the fuel in the wingtip tanks, then return and practice landings. Instead of practicing air work, I flew northward to Wynne. I had logged almost eight hours total time in the aircraft. I was confident; I was hot; I was ready.

The day was clear and mild; it was perfect weather. I chose twenty thousand feet for the en-route portion. I chose about seventy feet for the buzz portion. I had to clear the tree tops, you know. Everything went according to plan. I made one pass from south to north over North Wilson Street, where I had lived with my parents and sister at number 411. I turned and came back over the same route from north to south. I saw Mama in the front yard excitedly waving to me as I roared past at almost 400 miles per hour. Wow, that was fun! I made a hard left turn and lined up over the railroad track from east to west, and ended with a final pass from west to east. Good job! I was sure I had **thrilled** everyone fortunate enough to have witnessed it. I turned right and climbed back to twenty thousand for the return to Greenville. Nobody at the Base would ever know.

**Uh-oh, somebody was not thrilled.** The incident had been reported to Civil Aeronautics Administration (CAA) authorities in Memphis. **BAD, BAD, NEWS.** The CAA sent two men to Wynne to investigate the incident. It would take a miracle to get me out of this predicament. I may have kissed the silver pilot wings and the gold bars goodbye. I wondered if I would go to jail, maybe in an Air Force stockade or a Federal Prison. What a stupid thing I had done. What had ever possessed me to do it? There was no excuse; I surely had known better. Now that it was too late, I was full of remorse. I'd probably have to pay the piper dearly for just that one short dance.

A few years later, my father learned the following facts about that investigation conducted by the CAA (now FAA). But first, it's time to meet the hero of this story. He was a prominent Wynne citizen, and incidentally, the father of a classmate. A compassionate man who helped me out of the jam I had created for myself. He had been a World War I fighter pilot. Over the years, fortunately for me, he had stayed interested in, conversant with, and connected to aviation matters.

This remarkable man knew personally one or both of the CAA investigators. He told them that it was probably a Navy jet training plane (the same type aircraft) from Millington Naval Air Station, north of Memphis. He went on to say that he didn't know who did it, paused, then softly and slowly said, "But if anything bad happens to that boy, I will see to it that you both regret it, and you know I can do that."

Thanks to him, nothing bad happened to that boy. He told my father, "A fighter pilot who won't buzz his hometown isn't worth a damn as a fighter pilot."

*(Continued on page 5)*

### **A Short Trip...** (Continued from Page 4)

After I learned what this man had done for me, I sought him out to thank him. With a firm handshake and a twinkle in his eyes, he said, "Son, I don't know what you're talking about."

Everything I managed to achieve after that foolish and irresponsible buzzing incident, I owe to that wonderful man who helped me when I most needed help. The hero of this story was the late **Mr. James Robertson**, Attorney at Law of Wynne, Arkansas, my old home town.

Extraordinarily, and perhaps deliciously, quite a bit later Mr. Robertson had an experience not to be forgotten. He was flying with an Arkansas Air National Guard pilot in the same type aircraft that I was flying that day. Mr. Robertson accomplished what may have been one of his lifelong dreams. He, too, buzzed Wynne in a military aircraft.

"A fighter pilot who won't buzz his hometown isn't worth a damn as a fighter pilot."

*(Lieutenant Colonel Marlin L. Call, United States Air Force (Retired), a 1949 graduate of Wynne High School, was Cross County's first jet pilot, having been awarded his Wings and Commission on May 12, 1954. He lives in Bartlesville, Oklahoma.)*



*Air Force Aviation Cadet Marlin L. Call is shown in his T-33, the plane in which he buzzed Wynne.*

### **Cross County's First Military Jet Pilots from Hickory Ridge**

The citizens of Hickory Ridge are proud of their youngsters. Marlin Call and Jere Ben Cooper spent their early years in Hickory Ridge (Cross County,) Arkansas. Each later earned his wings as the county's first two military jet pilots.

Call earned his wings May 12, 1954 via the Air Force Aviation Cadet Program, at Greenville Air Force Base, Greenville, Mississippi. During his career, Call piloted many types of aircraft, his favorite being the F-100 jet fighter plane. He flew for the Air Force, the Air Force Reserve and for the Air National Guard, making several trips to Viet Nam, and other Pacific and European locations.

After beginning school in Hickory Ridge and graduating in Wynne, Jere Ben Cooper earned his Navy Wings of Gold from Naval Flight Training School on 7 September 1956. He worked from the deck of a U. S. Navy aircraft carrier, and later flew commercially.

Younger brother of Jere Cooper, Bill Ed Cooper, who began life in Hickory Ridge, also became an aviator.

Available for in-house reading at the Cross County Museum is *Muktuk, Mukluks, and Moose*, a brief accounting by Lt. Col. Call, telling of his Alaskan tour of duty.

The Cross County Historical Society has a savings account which will someday become an endowment fund. After it reaches \$10,000, this fund will never die, but will continue to furnish maintenance and such things as scholarships for history students of Cross County. Won't you consider contributing to the future for our students? Send your check to CCHS Penny Fund, P. O. Box 943, Wynne, AR 72396.

Answer to **Do You Know**: Cross and Woodruff counties are the only counties in the state that were formed under the auspices of the Confederate Government. Cross County was formed by an act of the legislature on November 15, 1862. It was named for Colonel David C. Cross. Woodruff County was formed by an act of the Legislature on November 26, 1862 and was named for William E. Woodruff.

# **CROSS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

**P. O. Box 943**

**Wynne, AR 72396**

[crossmuseum@sbcglobal.net](mailto:crossmuseum@sbcglobal.net)

[www.cchs1862.org](http://www.cchs1862.org)

*The ERA may be viewed on the website above.*

**WINTER 2009**

### **In Gratitude**

Our appreciation goes to the **Cross County Bank** for the printing of this newsletter. The bank is located at 1 Cross County Bank Plaza, PO Box 9, Wynne, AR 72396, Telephone 870-238-8171, with branches in Wynne, Hickory Ridge, and Cherrv Vallev.

### **Hickory Ridge History Book for Sale**

*35 Degrees 24 Minutes North 91 Degrees West: A Town Called Hickory Ridge* by Don Evans, Isaac Bratcher, James Jeffers, and Johnny Wilson. Price \$40.00. Contact Johnny Wilson at 870-697-2993 or johnny.h.wilson@att.net.

### ***Cross County ERA***

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### ***THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEEDS YOU! (And Cross County needs the Society!)***

If you would like to become a member of the Cross County Historical Society, fill out the form below and mail with your check to the Cross County Historical Society, P. O. Box 943, Wynne, AR 72396. Members receive annual renewal letters. **MEMORIALS ARE WELCOME.**

Memberships: Individual \$15\_\_ Family \$25\_\_ Institutional \$35\_\_ Sustaining \$50\_\_ Patron \$100\_\_ Benefactor \$250\_\_ Advocate \$500\_\_  
Lifetime \$1000\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

GIFT: ( )In memory ( )In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please notify the following of this gift: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

***Please make checks payable to Cross County Historical Society and mail to P. O. Box 943, Wynne, AR 72396***

***501 (c) (3) Non-profit Organization***

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**Danny Thomas, who lives near New Hope School, has donated his funds and labor by reinforcing the building's walls while we wait for a grant to help restore it. Our thanks go to Danny!**