



Cross County Historical Society

P. O. Box 943, Wynne, AR 72396

www.cchs1862.org

Cross County *ERA*

VOL. 4 – No. 2

SPRING 2009

Museum Remodeling Continues

Crews of volunteers continue to appear to work in the remodeling process at the museum, sometimes in a group, sometimes individually; but the work goes on. Shown below are Bob Kittrell, Carol Brown, and Florence Halstead.



The plan is to clear the partitions from what was originally Miss Elaine Smith's fourth grade classroom in the northeast corner of the museum building, restoring it to a large room again.

This room will become a classroom for student visits, exhibit space, meeting room, reunions, seminars, et cetera, with space for a replica of the old country store featuring artifacts from the local area.

The society needs many more volunteers. If anyone desires to help with remodeling, call Carol Brown at 238-3815. Workers should bring something to work with.



Cross County Museum
711 East Union, Wynne

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Wynne Historic Districts Expanding

With the help of Martha and Joe Dooley, Executive Director of Arkansas Delta Byways Dr. Ruth Hawkins and others, the historic districts in Wynne are expanding.

Architectural survey work on Hamilton Avenue and Eldridge Court was completed last summer. The nomination application for the National Register of Historic Places for the area will be completed soon and submitted to the Arkansas Historic Preservation Board at its March meeting. By late summer the results will be announced.

Efforts are being made to develop the Downtown Wynne Commercial Historic District. The Arkansas Historic Preservation Board has reviewed and identified the boundaries of the proposed district, and a contract has been awarded for the next step with the architectural survey team to begin work within the next sixty days.

The proposed Commercial Industrial District, which will include the historic Wynne Waterworks water tower on West Union Street, Sharp Floral building, the cotton gin and Wynne Wholesale Co. building, all on West Merriman Avenue, are being considered for nomination by the Arkansas Historic Preservation Board.

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

President's Message

By Carol Brown

Hello again, Friends and Members of the CCHS:

The year marches on. It was just Christmas and now we are already stepping into spring. The progress at the museum is moving along though it doesn't seem to move as fast as the year.

We are going forward on our **main goal for the year, the building of our new exhibit spaces** in the two restored classrooms. The first step in that process is finding and hiring a research writer to compose the narrative for the development of the exhibit. The board has found and approved a proposal from Shelly Drummond Museum Solutions. Museum Solutions offers a variety of planning, interpretive and artistic services. They are experienced museum professionals and artists who understand the unique needs of small museums and historic societies, and will work to develop a custom solution to fit the needs of our organization.

The research, writing and content development will focus on interpretive themes defined by Capitol Exhibit Services Inc. in the exhibit schematic. Historic research will include a survey of the CCHS collection, and the budget allows for additional research in regional and state archives as needed. We are truly excited about this proposal.

Michelle Slabaugh has written a grant to the Arkansas Humanities Council to pay the fee of Museum Solutions. We should hear from them sometime in April or May.

The second project we are currently involved in is the **restoring of another classroom**. On January 17th we put in a successful workday at the museum. We had about 20 volunteers to help with the work of tearing down walls and ripping up carpet. Of course we were not able to finish in one day. Several generous volunteers continue to come when they can to finish the work. We're not far from completing the reconstruction. Michelle and I are working on a grant to help pay for that endeavor.

One other goal I mentioned in my last letter was to make **improvements in governance**. Michelle and I attended the second session of the Hands-On Experiential Learning Project (HELP) in February at Hot Springs. The Cross County Museum is one of twenty museums chosen to participate in the year-long HELP Project which was designed to provide training in areas critical to successful museums. The training emphasizes governance of non-profit organizations and focuses on board recruitment and retention; board and staff duties; financial responsibilities; fundraising; and volunteer recruitment. The program was implemented by Mid-America Arts Alliance, a regional arts organization serving cultural organizations in its member states of Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma and Texas, in partnership with the Arkansas Arts Council. Funding for the project was provided by generous support from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, and the Arkansas Museums Association through a grant from the Department of Arkansas Heritage. From this session we have learned a great deal.

A committee has begun work to rewrite our constitution and bylaws and for the first time we have actually developed a **line item budget for the year**. Of course, the majority of our income is derived from donor contributions, local businesses and civic organizations, and from membership dues. So we are **going on faith that even in an economic year such as this, we will have favorable local support**.

A planned volunteer training day in January did not happen but we have set **March 26 at 6:00 as a time for training**. This is for anyone who is interested in learning tasks such as accessioning, inventory, cataloging documents and artifacts, and other tasks that are never-ending. After the training, it would be possible for volunteers to arrange their own schedules to do this work. I know it's hard for most of us to volunteer on a regular time each month or week. But many could give an hour from time to time. Much valuable work can get done in this way.

Sometimes it seems to take forever to get things done at the museum. I think we have actually accomplished a lot in a short time, thanks to many of you. There is still much to do and **I'm counting on all of you to help in any way you**

CCHS Museum has a new part-time employee. Cherry Valley native Hope Caudell Mullins has a BA in History from Arkansas State University. She will be working Mondays and Wednesdays accessioning donated items.

Do you know what former Wynne physician's wife was a non-practicing attorney?

WILSON CLINIC MEMORIES

By Irene McMinn Cash - July 19, 2007

I graduated from Nurse's Training in 1942 and from Nurse Anesthetist School in 1952. I started in 1944 as an R.N. for Dr. Thomas Wilson.

He was so busy he couldn't get any rest, so I started doing more than nurses are taught, so I learned a lot.

He taught me to deliver babies if their mothers had from three to more. The mothers of first babies usually needed to have an episiotomy, which is to cut a little bit so that the baby's head can come through without causing any bad stuff. Then it has to be sewn up after the baby is born.

We had a technician, about two or three aides... Mrs. Mamie Davis was a very good one, and later Mrs. Scott's sister - I don't remember her name - but she came and worked a while. She was an LPN; she was a very good one. And Dr. Price, the other medical doctor, was in service during World War II. Dr. Wilson taught me to sew up lacerations, treat burns, take care of the babies, any emergency. He would not ever treat anyone that was drunk, and I got lots of experience. Dr. Wilson said that when he first came here, he had not ever delivered a baby; and when he was called out in the country to deliver his first baby, it was feet-first. He didn't know what to do, so he jumped on his horse and ran back to town to get Dr. J. T. Stewart and when they got back, it had already been born.

One night, I called him. A woman was trying to have a baby. It was real dark that night, about midnight, and it was raining. We drove several miles when a man met us with a tractor, and we climbed the fence onto the tractor, and went to this house that had no floor except dirt, no flooring at all. And she was almost worn out, but he finally delivered it, and it was about fourteen pounds.

He was finally comfortable with leaving me so he could go to Little Rock to have his teeth worked on.

Dr. Wilson was well liked. He had a large number of sick people. He was kind, gentle, and never got angry. If he had someone that he felt needed special care, he sent the patient to Memphis, most of them to the best hospital in Memphis, Baptist. I knew a lot of the doctors in Memphis. I left (*Wilson Clinic*) in 1947 knowing a lot more than I came there with.

I remember one (U.S.) soldier from the war prison camp where the old fair place used to be. He was taking care of some of the war prisoners. He had a fight with a man there and the man had a broken bottle. The poor soldier had a very long cut in the middle of his head from forward all the way back to the back of his head, and smaller ones each side - three. I didn't call Dr. Wilson because the soldier had been drinking. Several years later, Lucile, my sister, was going to New York on a train. She sat down with a man. He asked her where she came from and when she told him "Wynne, Arkansas," he said, "I was there. A nurse did a great job on my head." She said, "She was my sister." And this doesn't happen, hardly ever. It's happened twice now. (*The former time was while Mrs. Cash was in anesthetist school in St. Louis. As she was about to put a Los Angeles man to sleep for plastic surgery, she began singing. He told her that she sounded just like a girl he heard singing in Poplar Bluff, Missouri while he was waiting to change trains to St. Louis. Mrs. Cash said, "That was my sister Lucile who is the secretary for the trainmaster there!"*)

I worked with Dr. Wilson until Dr. Price came back. And I worked for both of them for another year and they turned over the nursing part to Dr. Layne Carson. He called a meeting of everybody except me. And he was putting me on night shift. I had (*previously*) worked for two years on night shift and Dr. Wilson had promised I didn't have to work it any more. But when Dr. Carson put me on the night shift, I said, "I'm not going to do that." He said, "Well, you have to." I said, "No, I don't. I think I can get another job." So I went and got my books and stuff together and left.

Dr. Wilson was always there for me. I don't care where it was or how it was. He came to Forrest City when I had my last baby and held my hand until I was asleep. He was the kindest man I have ever known.

Whenever Dr. Price came, it was fun. It was more fun because he was always telling jokes. Some of them weren't real good, either, but they were funny.

Dr. Stewart was here (*in Wynne*) before Dr. Wilson. Dr. Stewart was here for a long time. He used to be our doctor, and he used to come over across the river where we lived. And when he'd come over there (I was about ten years old) he'd come and pick me up and take me with him to make his calls. So that was why I went into nursing. He told me I'd make a good nurse because from the very day I was helping him, I was handing him what he needed and he didn't even have to ask for it. And he said, "How did you know that?" I said, "I don't know." And so he told me that I'd make a good nurse. So from then on, everything I did, I was waiting for the time I got to go into nursing.

(Continued on page 4)



Irene McMinn Cash, R.N.

MEMORIAL GIFTS

To Cross County Historical Society:

Jim and Martha Westmoreland, memory Irene France Westmoreland
Kenn and Jane Thompson memory Ed Ransom
Bridget Hart memory Becky Jacobs, JD Lace, Doris Bachand
Julia Gardner memory Mollye Pool
Rosemary and John Rhea memory, Catherine and OP Rhea, Henry and Ruth Sullivan
James and Sharon Midkiff memory John Fisher
Lauriann Heisler memory Logan Boeckmann
Mark and Bundy Hickey memory John Fisher
Ricky and Beth Dildine memory Bill Thomas
Jere and Camelia Kernodle memory Bobby Huddleston
Kemp and Susie Midkiff memory Jimmie James
Thomas and Shirley Hale memory Jimmie James
Julia F Meyer memory Jimmie James
John and Donna Horton memory Jimmie James
Danny Thomas memory Jimmie James
Josephine Gahr memory Jimmie James
Martha Baldwin memory Jimmie James
Mable Davis Family memory Jimmie James
Winifred Gammill memory Jimmie James, Jack McNeill
Billy and Linda Cowan memory Jimmie James
Berniece Hodges memory Jimmie James
Janice James Hardy memory Jimmie James
James and Sharon Midkiff memory Jimmie James, Vivian Lindley Horton
Darrell and Galen Hardy memory Jimmie James
Billy and Linda Cowan memory Earl Davis
Richard Hartness memory Mildred Garner, Katherine Miller, Mrs. Dick Ethridge
James and Sharon Midkiff memory Ira Lee Allen

To New Hope School Project:

Suzette Parker Elmore, Patti Rye memory Betty Lou Lindley Woods Harbison
J. E. Brimhall family members memory J. E. Brimhall
Tommy and Carol McCrary memory Yuell Sanders
Bridget Hart memory Yuell Sanders, Tom Morgan
Jeanne Davis Snead memory Estelle Sullivan
Wynne High School Teachers memory Estelle Sullivan
Brent and Frankie Sullivan memory Estelle Sullivan, honor Bridget Hart
Bridget Hart memory Frank Hiserodt, George Young
Pat and Shannon Smith memory Estelle Sullivan
Bridget Hart memory Billy Hall Clark
Linda and Billy Cowan memory Autie Davis
Linda and Billy Cowan memory Red Smith
Linda and Billy Cowan memory Vivian Lindley Horton
James and Martha Westmoreland memory Irene France Westmoreland
Amos Brawner memory Eleen Dunn Brawner
Stephanie Emerson memory Estelle Sullivan
Linda and Billy Cowan memory Arlene Hillis
Hall, Blake Associates memory Dr. Kenneth Hall
Wynne High School Class of 1950 memory Nellie Cauble Brown

(From page 3) **Wilson Clinic**

I finally got there in 1939 and got out in 1942, January 4th. It was three years, working every day. That's how we got through nursing class then. Now it's about one year of books, one year of going (*to the hospital*) for one or two hours a day.

After receiving her Nurse Anesthetist degree in 1952 in St. Louis, Mrs. Cash worked for many years as a nurse anesthetist at the Cross County Hospital.

- Transcribed from tape by Bridget Hart

NOTICE TO GENEALOGISTS

The Arkansas Genealogy Road Show will be held Sat. March 28th from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Paragould Community Center at 3404 Linwood Drive. Admission is free.

The event offers unique and exciting opportunities for genealogists. Visit the vendors and the exhibits, and enjoy guest speakers and presentations, or sign up for a free 15-minute session with any of the panel of experts.

More information about the event can be found on the Arkansas Genealogical Society website or http://www.agsgenealogy.org/pdf_files/2009AGS_Road_Show.

If anyone is interested in car-pooling from the Cross County Museum, please call 870-238-4100.

Old Atlas Shows Cross County

Janie Edwards, freelance webmaster who lives in Redding, California, has an old Atlas of the World. The atlas contains 1910 - 1914 maps, and Cross County is in it. She has placed them on her website. In order to see how your county looked in 1914, see http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~shasta/ca/maps_index.html

Duncan Donates Memorable Gift

Mrs. Dorcas Duncan has generously given to the Cross County Museum something very dear to her heart. She worked many years at the Cross County Department of Health with long time county nurse Mrs. Hattye Robinson. When Mrs. Hattye died several years ago, her Bible was given to Mrs. Duncan. The Bible is filled with news clippings, pictures and other memorabilia saved by Mrs. Hattye. Mrs. Duncan wishes the Bible and contents to be accessible to multitudes of Cross County citizens touched by Mrs. Hattye.

The collection will later be exhibited in the museum alongside Mrs. Hattye's antique wheelchair which is presently on exhibit.

In the next issue, we would like to print your remembrances of Mrs. Hattye Robinson. You may send your article to Bridget Hart, 503 N. Killough Rd, Wynne, AR 72396 or to bhart@sbcglobal.net.

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 **scholarships for history students of Cross County**. Won't you consider contributing to the future of our students? Send your check to CCHS Penny Fund, P. O. Box 943, Wynne, AR 72396.

Delta Byways Banquet is rescheduled for May 29, 6:30 p.m., Paragould Community Center, 3404 Linwood Drive. New Hope School nominated for the Boot Strap Award. **Be there!** Call 870.238.2803 or email pmiles@astate.edu.

The museum needs volunteers to relate personal histories and to help describe past years in Cross County. A **public program is planned for Tuesday, April 28**, at the museum to demonstrate how to begin collecting histories of older county residents and of Cross County itself. Kim Seabaugh of Arkansas State University and retired Wynne history teacher Libby Washington, will present. Please offer to be interviewed and try to be present for this important program.

WWII Draft Office Burns

Memories by Edwin Harris, Jack Killough and Gerald Stutts

Edwin Harris speaks of the Draft, "After the Pearl Harbor attack in December of 1941, the U.S. Government established a draft system to get the men (and women) into the armed forces. At that time I was in my sophomore year at Louisiana State University. The Draft said that anyone who was in school at that time would be allowed to finish that semester, so I knew I could finish that term.

"The Cross County Draft Office was in an office upstairs over Block's Store on Wilson Street in downtown Wynne. I believe the F. O. Cogbill Insurance Company was also upstairs over that store. Mrs. Dorothy Lipscomb was in charge of the office and Eva Earl Eddins was her assistant. I don't remember the exact date, but that store building caught fire and burned to the ground. All the records in the draft board office were destroyed. All the men in Cross County had to sign up again for the draft. It took about a year to get everybody signed up again and all the information and records in place. Thus, I was able to get in my junior year in college. My draft number finally came up in the summer (*July*) of 1943. In August, a bunch of us were sent to Camp Robinson in Little Rock to be sent to various places for basic training. Jack Killough was in the same group as I at that time.

"After training, I was sent overseas. I remember I got on a troop ship at Norfolk, Virginia, on February 23, 1944, which happened to be my 21st birthday. I saw service in North Africa, Italy, and France, and when the war was over I was returned to the US and got to New York harbor on February 23, 1946, which was my 23rd birthday. I was gone exactly two years to the day. I thought that was quite a coincidence."

"I went in the same day as Edwin along with Gerald Stutts," says Jack Killough. "Gerald says I talked him into it, but... We were drafted, but we just went down to the draft office and said 'Go ahead and put in our names, we'll go ahead early.' The latter part of July we signed up, took physicals and were told to report back in two weeks, Sody McNeill, Gerald Stutts, Caudell Lane, H. P. Sisk, and I."

Gerald Stutts tells it this way: "I was in town on that day right after Pearl Harbor. After the draft office burned, Mrs. Lipscomb who worked there was getting ready to start drafting again. Jack knew it. He said to me that his father didn't want him to volunteer. Every time Jack mentioned it... (...and he (*Mr. Killough*) was the provost marshal down in Texas!) My dad, too, was telling me not to volunteer. I was thinking that I'd like to go ahead and get in service, so we wanted to just go on in. The next day we went in the office and signed up. I remember a bunch of guys, Venoy Foltz, Caudell Lane....

"The first night, bedbugs attacked us. (People had come in from everywhere.) I tried and tried to snap a blanket to get rid of those bugs. I got most of them out, but not all. Finally, I went out and lay on the ground. I looked up and here came Caudell Lane with a blanket. He said they were eating him up, too. We slept on the ground the rest of the night. The next morning at reveille we told them about it and they brought out chemicals, kerosene, etc., and we poured it around the posts, in the barracks and everywhere. Everybody spent that first day poisoning bedbugs."

- Email and telephone interviews.

CD About Cross County Found on the internet is the following ad: "Cross County History and Genealogy. An informative and historical overview of Cross County, Arkansas including two separate books on one CD which include 4 historical maps (1855, 1895, 1898, and 1915); plus the sections 1890 Goodspeed Publishing Company *Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Cross County, Arkansas* book on CD including 103 family biographies. An important resource for the study and research of Cross County, Arkansas history and genealogy." See link below.

http://www.hearthstonelegacy.com/cross_county_arkansas.htm

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The ERA may be viewed on the website above.

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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.

Answer to **Do You Know**: Elizabeth Wilson worked for a time as a law secretary in Memphis. The chief counsel encouraged her to take the Tennessee Bar exam. She did so, and became a Tennessee attorney. She later became the wife of Dr. Thomas Wilson of the Wilson Clinic in Wynne. They lived at 102 Eldridge Court in Wynne, in the house he built for his first wife who died very young.
(Told by Elizabeth Wilson to Bridget Hart, Editor)

Cross County ERA

Published quarterly by the Cross County Historical Society, P. O. Box 943, 711 East Union Ave, Wynne, AR 72396, 870-238-4100
Bridget Hart, Editor. Consultants: CCHS President Carol Brown; Georgia Ross, George Anne Draper, Educators
Contact Editor: bhart1@sbcglobal.net

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
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