



# Cross County Historical Society

P. O. Box 943, Wynne, AR 72396

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

# Cross County *ERA*

VOLUME 6—NO. 1

WINTER 2011

## Christmas Open House at Museum a Success

Rudolph and Dutch the Railroad man greeted backdoor entrants to the Cross County Museum's Open House the night of December 7 - Pearl Harbor Day - where collections were featured among the exhibits.



Naomi Wise with Rudolph

Some of the collections showcased were Santas, Christmas plates, nutcrackers, snowmen and angels. A Christmas Village was also displayed with many tiny lighted structures. Several Christmas trees were aglow, the tallest displayed in the lobby and decorated with ornaments made by Cross County School and Wynne School students. One Christmas tree pretended to be a snowman. A white Christmas tree was decorated in red, white and blue, and dedicated to all American Veterans.

The refreshment room featured a Coca Cola collection where The Real Thing was served, along with homemade sweets and hot spiced cider.

Approximately 75 people attended the Open House. Several guests had their pictures made with Rudolph.

The collections will be on display for another few days and visitors are welcome to browse.



Cross County Museum  
711 East Union, Wynne

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### MUSEUM HOURS

The Cross County Museum is  
open Monday through Friday,  
10:00 to 4:00  
CALL 870-238-4100

## Message from President Carol Brown

This is the first issue of a new year and I want, first, to thank all those who, during the past year, have given so generously of their time, their ideas, their funding or the loaning of any article. The society cannot work without these persons.

Some events have been carried out successfully and more events are planned. Capital Exhibits, the company building our exhibits for the museum, continues to work on the pottery cabinets and the model of Crowley's Ridge, which will be displayed in the southwest room of the museum. The designer has made some changes, causing a small delay in delivery. The Historical Society has received \$8000 from the Arkansas Department of Rural Services. This money is designated for continued work in the exhibit spaces. Almost all the work in the northeast room has been completed. The electrical work is finished, the security system has been restored, the heat and air is operable, the walls are painted and the room is now usable. The floor has yet to be sanded, but that will come. We will do more as we receive the funding.

The Open House was a success. We appreciate all those who attended and those who bought our new book, "A Virtual Tour through Downtown Wynne." Sales of the book have added over \$3500 to the funds of the New Hope School Project.

The society will have its major fundraiser on February 12 at the Tech Center for the Delta. Planned is a steak dinner and program of "Fashion through the Ages" presented by Grace Steuri from Little Rock who owns a collection of vintage clothing. Steuri presents her program to non-profit organizations charging only expenses. Junior Progressive Club girls will model. A silent auction will also be held, consisting of interesting articles contributed by friends of the museum. Much work has been done toward this event.

In addition to the collecting of histories of Cross County families, histories of the communities in Cross County are being collected. These stories will all be entered into the Cross County Families History Book which will be published and available in November of 2011.

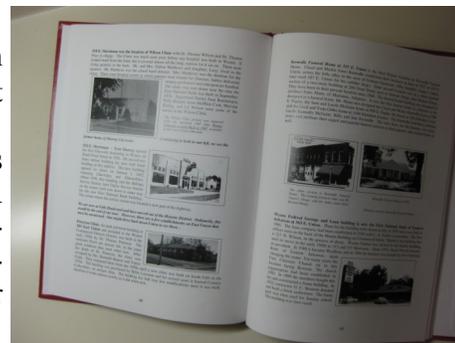
I thank you again and now wish everyone a merry Christmas and a healthy and prosperous new year.

## “A Virtual Tour through History in Downtown Wynne, Arkansas” Selling Well

The book, “A Virtual Tour through History in Downtown Wynne, Arkansas,” seems to be very popular and is selling well. Many people have purchased the book as Christmas gifts for friends who were reared in the Wynne area. A second order of books has been placed with the printer and all have been sold. Gift certificates may be purchased and redeemed after Christmas when the new order comes in.

The picture-filled, hard-back book takes the reader on a nostalgic tour through the Historic District of Downtown Wynne, describing the important businesses that helped get Wynne established as a thriving railroad town.

“A Virtual Tour...” contains 95 captioned pictures, text describing the businesses of early Wynne and a long reference index. Many of the photos are railroad photos. A map of downtown Wynne is included, with labels showing where many of the old businesses were situated in downtown Wynne. Throughout the text are short stories and interesting facts researched and written by Bridget Hart, based on a downtown Wynne tour by Rachel Silva, Staff Tour Guide with Arkansas Heritage.



Price of each book is \$50 plus \$5.00 shipping. For more information or to order, call 870-238-8631 or the Cross County Museum at 870-238-4100 between 10:00 and 4:00 Monday through Friday, or write to Cross County Museum, P. O. Box 943, Wynne, AR 72396. Proceeds from the sale of the book are going to the New Hope School Restoration Project. **Please make your check to NEW HOPE SCHOOL.**

(This book is separate from the Cross County Families history book being compiled at the museum. The families history will be available in November of 2011.)

### Index Arkansas Project Announced by University of Arkansas Libraries

Tom W. Dillard and the Special Collections Department of the University of Arkansas Libraries are announcing an important project that will significantly advance the study of Arkansas. The project is labeled “Index Arkansas.” The index is available to everyone free of charge. The web link is <http://arkindex.uark.edu>.

The Happy Hollow Foundation of Fayetteville funded this two-year project in order to update an online index of journals, bulletins and historical resources of the counties in Arkansas. At this time not all publications are completed.

Index Arkansas is contributing mightily to the renaissance in research on topics of Arkansas history. The automated counting system reflects the fact that more than 5,000 people per month use the Index.

### New Board Members Elected at CCHS

Three new board members have been elected to office in the Cross County Historical Society. Phillip Moery, native of Wynne, has recently returned to the community and has agreed to be vice-president of the society. Moery is a professor of economics and continues to work part time, but will do what he can for our organization. Jim Huff has accepted the position of treasurer of the society. Huff, also a native of Wynne, is employed at the First National Bank. He is the son of Bonnie Shaver Huff of Wynne and Mike Huff, formerly of Wynne. Jeff Guide, retired from the Library of Congress, Washington, DC under President Reagan, is a new board member and manages the computer systems for the society. Guide is employed in the security department of Wal-Mart in Forrest, but has lived in Wynne since 2004.

The historical society is grateful for these new members and for their contribution to the community.

#### **MEMORIAL GIFTS**

##### **To Cross County Historical Society:**

Esther and Jack Killough

*Memory of Martha Beaton*

Gloria and Bob Ford

*Memory of Ken Proctor*

Harriet O’Neal

*Memory of Shirley Stark*

*Memory of James Laws*

##### **To New Hope School:**

Bridget Hart

*Memory Marlon West Walls, WHS classmate*

##### **To CCHS Savings Account:**

No memorial contributions this quarter

#### **1924 Book about Railroad Riot Available on CD**

Written by a minister who lived at 714 Harrell Street in Wynne, *The Harrison Riot* is a true story of Rev. J. K. Farris’s hair-raising adventures in Harrison, Arkansas in 1924.

The text of the book is on CD and available by contacting Bridget Hart, 503 N. Killough Road, Wynne, AR 72396 or [bhart1@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bhart1@sbcglobal.net). It is also available by calling the Cross County Museum at 870-238-4100. Make your check in the amount of \$5.00, payable to New Hope School. If ordering, include \$4.00 postage.

#### **WOULD YOU LIKE EMAILS FROM YOUR MUSEUM?**

**If you would like to receive email notices from the Cross County Museum, please contact Joy McMinn at the museum and let her know your latest email address.**

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

870-238-4100

**Don't forget: give to your Cross County Historical Society for memorials, birthdays and Christmas.**

**Cross County Historical Society New Hope School CCHS Savings Account**

***Our thanks to all of you!***

## **Wynne's Grace Episcopal Church Continues from 1918**

Probably the smallest religious body in Wynne is the Episcopal Church, yet the few members of that faith in this vicinity have maintained a church and held services for many years.

The first services of the church were held here about 1901 by the Reverend C. H. Lockwood, rector of St. John's Parish, Helena. They were held in the home of Mrs. Todie Rouse Dunham and her daughter, Mrs. Katie Dunham Mulkey.

About 1913 Archdeacon W. M. Walton held a mission here, the Presbyterians of the city lending their building. The Rt. Reverend James Winchester, D. D., Bishop of the Diocese of Arkansas, administered the Sacrament of Confirmation to a class of about six persons as a result of the mission.

From that time on there was a desire on the part of the church's people here to have a place of worship of their own. First mention of a permanent Episcopal Mission in Wynne was started by Mrs. R. C. White and Mrs. John Harrison in 1917. These two ladies went to Batesville and talked to the Bishop. They asked him what it took to start a mission; he replied, "money and prayer." He then asked how much money they had and was told they had three dollars. "Go ahead, but it is going to take a lot of prayer," the Bishop said.

Along with their prayers and seed money, Rafe Block donated the lot on Poplar Avenue; Clarence Forbes, Walter Duffy and R. C. White arranged for their employer, the Missouri Pacific Railroad, to donate all the brick and a generous amount of other building material. Nina Block Andrews (Mrs. J. H.) wrote her father's business suppliers and persuaded them to make cash and/or material donations. With these efforts, the building was started at 604 East Poplar Avenue. Meanwhile regular services were conducted in their homes and led by the Reverend C. C. Burke, Rector of St. Andrews Paris, Marianna, Arkansas. The Reverend Burke rode the train to Wynne, conducted services and rode the train back to Marianna.

By 1918, the "Early Virginia" style building was finished and was debt free. It was consecrated on June 13, 1918 by the Rt. Reverend James Ridout Winchester, Episcopal Bishop of Arkansas, and was under the charge of the Reverend Burke. In 1919 the congregation of 35 communicants was admitted into union with the Diocese of Arkansas. Clarence Forbes, Mr. and Mrs. O. H. Pool, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Duffy, Mr. and Mrs. R. C. White, and Mrs. John Harrison, Mrs. J. H. Andrews, Mr. and Mrs. George Merrifield, Mr. and Mrs. Mabry, Mr. and Mrs. F. A. Jones, Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Armstrong, Mrs. Neil Killough, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Lay, Avery Jackson, Tom Jackson, Bert Jackson, Stanley Johnson and Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Morrison were charter members.

Bishops in charge of Grace Church have been Bishop James R. Winchester, Edwin Warren Saphore, Richard Bland Mitchell, Robert Raymond Brown, Christoph Keller, Jr., Herbert A. Donovan, Jr., Larry Maze and the present Larry Benfield.

The priests that have served are Reverend C. C. Burke, John L. Sanders, Jeremiah Wallace, Myron Morley, Sheldon Davis, John D. Krasten, Limuel G. Parks, Jr., Charles B. Hoglan, Jr. Paul F. Heberger, Ross W. Stuckey, Robert D. Martin, Merrie A. Need and Scott Trotter. Rafe Andrews, John Roberts, Martha Matthews, Thomas Tanner, Ted Herrman and Patricia Duke have all given outstanding services as lay readers.

The growth of Grace Church has never been large or steady. Its small membership has varied greatly through the years with a present membership of five families and seven communicants.

If anyone would like to see the nave, please call Phillip Moery at 208-8423. Everyone is invited to attend services on Sundays at 1:00 p.m.

June 13, 2007 — Submitted by Phillip Moery



### **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](mailto:johnny_h_wilson@att.net)

### **Hartness Book Remains Available**

*Wittsburg, Wynne, and Points Nearby*, a new publication by Richard Hartness, is available in paperback, \$19.95, and in hardcover, \$29.95, plus \$4.95 shipping. The book is a combination of reprints of four publications Hartness compiled in 1970.

Hardcover books are available in Wynne at the Cross County Museum, Star Printing Company, Caldwell Discount Pharmacy, or from the author. Paperback books can be purchased from Mr. Hartness by calling 870-208-9311 or the museum at 870-238-4100.

Hartness is a Wynne native. He holds a Master's Degree in History from Arkansas State University. He is the author of *Wittsburg, Arkansas: Crowley's Ridge Steamboat Riverport 1848—1890*, published in 1978.

## History of Graham Hardware, Cross County's Oldest Working Business - Since 1917 -

William Thomas Graham and Lee Dabbs Graham were married in 1906 and had two daughters, Virginia Margaret and Wilma Lee. The family moved to Wynne from Brazoria, Texas in 1917. Prior to the move William owned and operated a sawmill business. The move to Wynne was to be near family, as Mrs. Graham's sister was married to Robert Lee Block, an established businessman in Cross County. Her father, W. P. Dabbs, of Springfield, Missouri was an original investor in Cross County Bank, which was established in 1891.

After their move to Wynne, William purchased Burton Hardware. This business was opened in 1897 and at that time was well established. The purchase brought about the store's name change to Graham Hardware, which still remains today. The original hardware store was located at 218 Front Street and moved to its current location at 111 Union Street in 1935.

The Graham's daughter, Wilma, married J. Wade Henderson on October 14, 1934 and they had two children, Hugh Graham and Virginia Lee, both born in Texarkana, Texas. Wade and Wilma moved to Wynne in 1945, when Wade became a partner in Graham Hardware. Until then he was employed by Swift meat packing company in Texarkana. He was born in 1911 at Marmaduke, Arkansas and was a graduate of Arkansas State Training High School. In 1934 he received his B.S.E. at Arkansas State College.

The Henderson's son, Hugh Graham, known as Graham, married Betty Jennings and they had two daughters, Mary Elizabeth and Roberta Lee. Graham did not play a key role in the hardware business, as his interests were in aerospace. He made his living as a research scientist for Lockheed Aircraft and his residence was in Atlanta, Georgia.

The Henderson's daughter, Virginia Lee, married Owen Caudell and they had three girls, Joanna Gail, Janet Lee, and Margaret Ann. While the Caudells moved to Heber Springs, Arkansas for seven years, they eventually made their way back to Wynne.

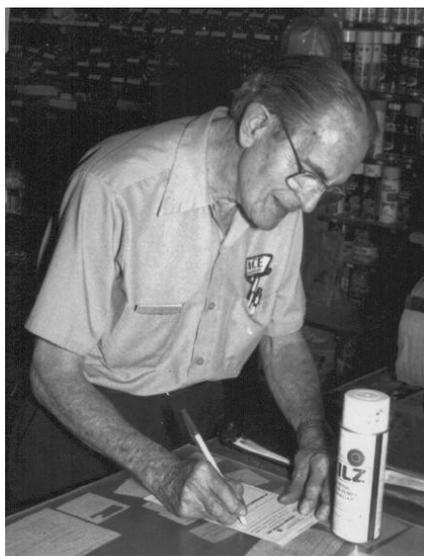
Virginia started working at Graham Hardware as bookkeeper in 1963. She would later move on to become a store partner with her brother, Graham and son-in-law, Bruce Beck. Bruce married Virginia's daughter, Janet, in 1985 and soon became an employee at Graham's. In 2002 the partnership was formed upon the death of Virginia's father, Wade Henderson. Mr. Wade, as he was known around town, worked at Graham Hardware every day the doors were open, until he died at the age of 91.

As with the longevity of its hard working owners, Graham Hardware continues to be a thriving family owned and operated business that marks its 93rd anniversary in the year 2010, when this article was written. And, as they say, "if they don't have it at Graham's, you probably don't need it".

*Written and shared by Virginia Henderson Caudell, granddaughter of original owner, W. T. Graham.*



*Mr. W. T. Graham,  
founder of Graham Hardware*



*Mr. Wade Henderson, partner and  
son-in-law of founder, W. T. Graham*



*Current Graham Hardware partners  
Bruce Beck and Virginia Caudell, grand-  
daughter of W. T. Graham.  
Beck is Caudell's son-in-law.*

## **A Conversation with Raymond Havis Grantham, New Hope School Student**

Mr. Grantham, when did you attend New Hope School?

*Well, I attended the first time in 1932. We moved to this county in the fall of '31, and I went there to New Hope School for a year in '32.*

Now, tell me about the building.

*The building was a little one-room building, it had an old, we called it a pot-bellied stove, used coal for heat, and in the winter time everybody tried to gather around the stove to get thawed out and some kids would come in with their hands froze, crying as their hands warmed up.*

How far did you live from the school?

*Well, when the weather was fine, we were three miles. But when the weather was bad and the creek was up, it was five miles around that we walked to get to school. We walked every day.*

What did you take your lunch in?

*A five pound lard bucket.*

What did you take for lunch?

*Well, back then, people cured their own meat, and Mama and Daddy always had some hams hanging in the smoke-house, and Mama would slice a slice of ham, and she always made biscuits – a big biscuit - put a piece of ham in that biscuit and that's what we had for lunch.*

Was there anything to drink, Mr. Grantham?

*No, huh-uh. No. They didn't have water at the school.*

Do you remember if some kids went to school barefoot?

*Yes, some did, not all year, but when it was warm. Most of the boys wore bib overalls. A lot of girls wore overalls, 'specially the smaller girls.*

Can you name your teachers?

*Yeah, the first teacher we had was Miss Dovey Woods, and then we had Miss Autie Stout and then we had Miss Dolly Jane Hammett. That was the three teachers.*

Was there a teacher who substituted for Miss Hammett?

*Well, her sister. I'll tell you about her. Miss Dolly Jane had to have an appendix operation, so she got her sister, Miss Doris Kate, to come out and teach for her. Well, the first morning, she came there, we all whispered amongst ourselves, "Now when we go out for recess and she rings that bell, don't go in, but keep on playing." So, recess came, and she rang that bell and we kept on playing; she rang that bell again and we kept on playing. There was a big old tree – oak tree - out there that water had washed around and there was a big old root on that tree. She reached and pulled that root off that tree and put her knee on that root and broke that root in two there and we tore the door off that schoolhouse getting inside! We had school then!*

What kind of discipline besides a stick of wood did those teachers use?

*They used a switch. Back then, you had these huckleberries (You don't find them anymore 'cause that was something good to eat in the wintertime.) But these huckleberries would have what we call a water sprout, I mean just a straight, slender sprout there and sometimes they'd take two or three and plait 'em, and give you a whipping with that.*

Tell me about the outhouses. Were they close to the building?

*Not right at the building. They were far enough away that you wouldn't get the smell because there wasn't no fan or nothing'.*

Tell me about that gully there beside the school. Did you all play in that gully?

*Oh, yeah. In the wintertime, we'd make our own sleds and come a snow, we'd have a ball at noon, lunchtime there. Of course, you'd climb trees. You'd find a hickory tree there, a small one, bend the top over, you know a bunch of 'em, let one get in there and we'd turn that top a-loose and they'd swing back up there... (lots of laughter.) 'Cause, you know, you had to make your own toys back then, 'cause there wasn't many able to do much. We'd build our own snow sled; nobody had a factory snow sled.*

*(This interview was conducted by Bridget Hart in May of 2007. Mr. Grantham's sister, Mrs. Josephine Martin, furnished the information regarding the lunch ingredients. Other people willing to contribute first-hand stories of olden times, please call the museum at 870-238-8631. A time will be set aside for an interview.)*

# **CROSS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

P. O. Box 943

Wynne, AR 72396

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

## **WINTER 2011**

### **Cross County ERA**

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Bridget Hart, Editor. Consultants: CCHS President Carol Brown, Betty Holland; Georgia Ross, George Anne Draper, Educators.  
To contact editor: [bhart1@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bhart1@sbcglobal.net)

**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: [http://www.hearthstonelegacy.com/cross\\_county\\_arkansas.htm](http://www.hearthstonelegacy.com/cross_county_arkansas.htm)

### **In Gratitude - AGAIN and AGAIN**

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 Cherry Valley.

### **BUILD PRESERVATION IN CROSS COUNTY—JOIN YOUR COUNTY'S HISTORICAL SOCIETY** **MEMORIALS ARE WELCOME**

**Please make checks payable to Cross County Historical Society, New Hope School, or CCHS Savings Account, and mail to P. O. Box 943, Wynne, AR 72396 Persons donating \$15 or more to any of these accounts becomes a member of CCHS.**

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

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