

FLASHBACK

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BOARD PLANS FOR ANNUAL BANQUET

The board of directors of the Washington County Historical Society met November 20 and made plans for the first annual banquet of the Society, to be held on Tuesday evening, December 18.

It was decided not to have a guest speaker at the banquet but to let each member of the Society relate his or her favorite incident from Washington County history. That should make an interesting program.

Winners of awards in the public schools historical essay contest will be guests at the banquet and will receive cash prizes and certificates. The election of officers for 1952 will be another feature of the banquet. Tom Feathers was appointed to make the arrangements.

The president reported that conflicting attractions would make it difficult to hold a successful exhibit of family heirlooms and historical relics at this time. It was decided to postpone the exhibit -- to be called "Romantic Yesterdays" -- until Spring.

The directors discussed the need for a depository for archives, such as letters, diaries, pictures, newspapers and books, that have been offered to the Society.

It was decided to have the Society's 1952 membership card carry pictures and biographical sketches (on the back) of Archibald Yell and David Walker, two of Fayetteville's noted early-day citizens. The membership cards will go on sale December 18.

State Association

Officers of the Arkansas Historical Association sent out a letter asking each member to get a new member. Printing costs are up, as are mailing and other expenses. The Association's only income is from the \$3-per-year memberships. Members of our county society ought to help the work of the state association. So, send your check for \$3 to Dr. H.M. Alexander, U of Arkansas, Fayetteville. You'll be just in time to get the winter issue of the Arkansas Historical Quarterly.

"The First Ten Amendments"

The WCHS has received reprint copies of an article by Nathan Boone Williams of Washington, that appeared in the Oct-Nov. issue of the Journal of the Bar Association of the District of Columbia. The 16-page article is entitled "The First Ten Amendments". Mr. Williams is a native of Washington County and a member of our Society.

Judge Humphreys

The death of T.H. Humphreys, who was Justice of the Arkansas Supreme Court for many years, has removed one of our most interested and interesting WCHS members. He could always be counted on for reminiscences of 50 or 60 years ago. When our Society held its pilgrimage to Evergreen Cemetery last spring, Judge Humphreys was present and contributed information about many of the illustrious dead whose graves we visited and whom he had known personally. Now he sleeps among them.

In This Issue

Some Excerpts from Old Letters Buzzard Roost--Silvia--Cincinnati Dedication of the Rieff Marker Rieff Family Records, 1814-1861 Springdale Historical Pilgrimage First List of Local Tax Payers Old Business Firms of the County WCHS Plans First Annual Banquet History of Fayetteville Schools and many short items of interest.

Society Hears Story of Fayetteville Schools

The September meeting of the WCHS, held in Hill Hall on the University campus, was devoted to the history of the Fayetteville public schools. The speaker was F.S.Root, who was for many years superintendent of our city's schools.

Mr. Root pointed out that Fayetteville is located on Section 16, the section which Congress set apart in each township for school purposes. Since many citizens had obtained government patents on their lots and the town had been built on Section 16, a special act of Congress gave Section 20 (where Fayetteville Junction is) to this township for school purposes. The price of the school lands was \$2 an acre.

About 1870 an act of the state legislature permitted school districts to be formed, so the first Fayetteville school board was set up in 1871 at a meeting in Supt. Henderson's office. Mt. Zion, west of town, was District No. 1, but later the Fayetteville district was made No.1 and Mt.Zion became No.2.

The school board in 1872 had only \$3,800, and for 13 years there was no money with which to erect a school building. Schools were held in residences, stores, churches and in the old Masonic Hall. They would run for three or four months until the money was expended, after which the teachers would conduct private schools and collect tuition.

There was not enough revenue for a school building until 1885, in which year the school board took a census of tax payers. This list of tax payers, prepared for the guidance of the assessor and collector, appears in this issue of FLASHBACK. As a result of this action, and the increased revenue which it produced, the board was able to proceed in 1886 with the erection of a building, on the site where the present Washington School stands. Within three years the building was overflowing with pupils, so it became necessary to erect another school, the old South School. By action of the board in 1891, the north school became the Washington School and the south school the Jefferson School. Construction of the old Leverett School at the corner of Garland and West Maple began in 1900, two rooms being ready for use that year.

A high school was organized in 1907 in a 3rd floor room of the old Washington School. In a room measuring 8x16 feet, on five discarded benches, sat the first 27 pupils of Fayetteville high school. The high school on School Street was built in 1908 and in 1911 the first FHS class was graduated. O.E.Williams, Fayetteville attorney and member of the WCHS, taught in the old Washington School and assisted Superintendent Root in the organization of the high school. He was present at our meeting and contributed some interesting sidelights. Additions to the high school were built in 1924 and 1927. The West Side School was built in 1917, Midland School in 1922, and Bates School in 1951. The new high school building is scheduled for completion next year.

Mr. Root related some facts about Fayetteville's first school for Negroes, the Mission School built in 1866 on property belonging to Judge Lafayette Gregg on what is now Mission Street. The school was taught by white teachers. It was called the Mission School until 1907, when the school district bought the property and changed the name to Henderson School, for the Superintendent whose daughter taught in it.

Fayetteville's first school board (1871) had Dr.J.C.Massie as president, Charles L. McClung as secretary, and J.Q.Benbrook, Thos.D.Boles, H.C.C.Botefuhr, D.D.Stark. In the past 80 years the Fayetteville public schools have had only seven superintendents: O.C.Gray, H.M.Welch, N.P.Gates, J.C.Mitchell, Loren Campbell, F.S.Root, Virgil T.Blossom.

Historical Pilgrimage to Springdale

A most enjoyable event for our Society was the historical pilgrimage to Springdale on October 14. Messrs. Lockwood Searcy and D.D. Deaver, Springdale members of the WCHS, made the preparations for our visit, and on the day we were there they explained the events that occurred at the old Primitive Baptist Church, the town square, and the college and chautauqua grounds -- all of which we visited.

Probably the greatest interest was shown in the historical relics that were shown in the Springdale library. Here were many old deeds, including the land grants of 1840 signed by President John Tyler; 100-year-old silhouettes and dauguerreotypes; rare old newspapers and almanacs; household utensils, including a flax spinning wheel, spice grinder, bellows and candle moulds; coverlets and garments of a century ago; and many others.

Issues of six early Springdale newspapers were on display, including the Enterprise, Yellow Jacket, Arkansaw Locomotive, Courier, Democrat, and News. Mr. Searcy's unusual collection of old almanacs contained such rarities as the Family Christian Almanac of 1855, People's Almanac of 1867, Wakefield's Almanac of the 1870's, as well as files of Ayers' McLean's, Summer's, Hostetter's, and other popular almanacs of the period from 1870 to 1890.

It is hard to single out items from the exhibit for special mention. The primitive telephone (operated by vibration) used between the Springdale Woolen Mill and Emma Avenue, a hundred-year-old picture handkerchief, and a copy of the book, "Character Building", by "Coin" Harvey (printed at Monte Ne) -- all attracted attention.

At the site of the Old Shiloh Church, whose upstairs lodge hall is still used by the IOOF, Mr. Deaver told the story of the founding of Springdale, pointing out the site of the first log church (1842), the spring that gave the city its name (at the northeast corner of the grounds), the location of the home and wagon shop of John Holcomb, and the corner that was the first graveyard. He related the story of the church bell, still in use, that the Reverend Holcomb brought from south Arkansas about 1866. It was supposed to have been the bell on a Red River steamboat. He also told of the annual "May Meetings" of the Primitive Baptists ("foot washings") on these grounds.

The old church and the grounds, which, as Mr. Deaver pointed out, are the birthplace of Springdale, are now owned by the Odd Fellows lodge. Originally the upstairs hall was the meeting place of the Masons. Mr. Loyd Francisco of Springdale, who is a Grand Trustee of the IOOF, was present and gave the history of that order. He pointed out that the Springdale lodge is almost as old as the lodge at VanBuren, which recently celebrated its centennial. The early Springdale IOOF lodge was succeeded by the present lodge in 1891 and has since absorbed all other IOOF lodges in the county.

In the library Mr. Searcy told the story of the early real estate transfers, which led to the establishment of a public square. The library in which we met was once the corner of the square. Our group then went outdoors and viewed the small building across the street, which was a general store in its day and is the only survivor of the business buildings that once fronted on Springdale's half-forgotten public square. We also viewed the old inn, while Mr. Searcy explained that the stage coaches left the Old Wire Road and detoured through town so that the passengers could eat at this tavern. The stage coaches then circled east and rejoined the Wire Road at Lynch's Prairie, just southeast of town, which was Springdale's first postoffice.

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The story of Springdale's early colleges and of the chautauquas that attracted state-wide attention was told by Mr. Deaver. The first school on the old college site (now the Central School grounds) was built in 1872. The Baptist College became the Lutheran College in 1886 and a few years later was purchased by the Springdale College Company, which leased the school to Josiah H. Shinn, former state superintendent of public instruction, who operated it for several years. It was a surprise to learn that military training was given by a government instructor. In 1902 ten public-spirited citizens purchased the school property and deeded it to Springdale School District No. 50.

A sudden storm prevented our visit to Tontitown, where we had made arrangements for a talk by Father Thomas J. Kennedy at St. Joseph's Church, to be followed by a visit to Father Bardini's grave in the Tontitown cemetery. We hope to visit this interesting Washington County community at a later date.

Our Society owes thanks to Mr. Searcy and Mr. Deaver for the success of our Springdale pilgrimage. Also, to the staff of the Springdale library, to Mr. Francisco of the IOOF, and to E.H. Ritter of the Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Ritter gave us valuable help in planning and carrying out our "pilgrimage". And our apologies to Father Kennedy and the folks of Tontitown for our failure to keep our appointment there.

News and Comment

A letter from Col. Wm. L. Bush of Lincoln, Ark., commanding officer of the 936th Field Artillery Battalion in Korea, reminds me that it is not too early for someone to put into writing the story of this Northwest Arkansas National Guard unit which has made an outstanding record in the Korean War. FLASHBACK will publish it, if someone will write it. Why wait 50 years to write this stirring history?

-WCHS-

A recent issue of the Baxter Bulletin, Mountain Home, carried a story about repairs being made on the Wolf Memorial at Norfolk. The Wolf Memorial is a 2-story log house that was built in 1809 and was the first courthouse of IZARD County. (It is now in Baxter County.) About 15 years ago the Federal government made a grant to restore the building and the WPA put it in good shape. What interested me in the Bulletin's story was the statement that hundreds of tourists signed the visitors' register at the Wolf Memorial this summer and that as many as five cars of visitors at one time visited the old house. Imagine how many tourists would stop to see the Stone house in Fayetteville if our Historical Society owned it and had it filled with historical relics! An admission charge would eventually pay for the building.

-WCHS-

Mrs. Margaret Smith Ross of Little Rock, former U of Arkansas student and a member of both the Washington County and Pulaski County historical societies, has completed a listing of all historical markers and monuments in Little Rock, together with their inscriptions. A similar job needs to be done in Fayetteville, where some of the markers are damaged or hidden beneath shrubbery or otherwise neglected.

-WCHS-

A newspaper story in the Southwest-Times Record of Fort Smith Nov. 18 reported that Storm Whaley, vice-president of John Brown University at Siloam Springs, has published a 50-page booklet, "They Call It", which gives the pronunciation of 1,600 Arkansas place names. The booklet is chiefly for radio announcers. It should prove of value. Too many of them don't know how to pronounce Desha and Chicot and other county names.

5

The Dedication of the Plaque on the Henry Rieff House
October 7, 1951

by Miss Jobelle Holcombe

The City of Fayetteville is noted for its historic markers that have been placed by the historical and patriotic societies. There are some ten or twelve. Among them are: the one at the Fayetteville High School commemorating the first school in the county, 1833; one at Miss Sawyer's School, 1839; one at Arkansas College, 1850; one at the Court House, the Butterfield Stage Coach route, 1857.

Today, through the courtesy of Mr. and Mrs. Callison, the Washington County Historical Society is dedicating another plaque. This beautiful building stands on a tract of land in a direct line of descent from the patent issued by President Andrew Jackson to the Fayetteville Land Commissioners, February 27, 1835. Through Henry Rieff, the first builder, this building stretches back to pre-Revolutionary days. In the abstract the property owners from 1836 to 1951 are designated: James W. Sweeny, Stokely D. M. Wilson, Henry Rieff, Elizabeth Spivey, Wm. A. Lamkin, Jonas M. Tebbetts, David M. Willford, Lorainah Evard, Kenzie and Joseph Routh, Charles F. Town, David Walker, Joseph Holcomb, James W. Jones, Theodore F. Jones, A. D. Callison.

In 1862, the Rieff dwelling was used as a commissary for the Confederate Army, and after the battle of Fayetteville, April 1863, it was held by the Union soldiers. An old quartermaster's report, discovered by workmen a short time ago, dated August 1863, itemizes horses, oats and hay purchased for the use of the Arkansas Cavalry then stationed in Fayetteville.

Now Fayetteville was surveyed into lots in 1835 by one Charles McClelland and the lots were placed at auction, 1835-1837. The lots in this tract, 5, 6, 7, 8, of Block 18, were sold in 1836. I have searched the records in vain for a description of these memorable auctions. The scene must have been in the neighborhood of the Eason Building and Lewis Brothers store. The auction was cried by one A. Whinnery, who was a charter member of the Masonic Lodge of Fayetteville. Imagination pictures him on a wagon-bed, in front of the auction block, with gavel in a strong, commanding hand, his handle-bar mustache and his slick black hair glistening in the sunlight when he removed his flat black derby. His suit, a Prince Albert broadcloth, was somewhat worn and dingy perhaps, but his stiff white collar and flowing tie did not wilt in the heat of the day. W. S. Campbell writes, "There must have been a curious array of buyers from many different states and many different peoples transplanted to surroundings so primitive." In all, 188 lots were sold to 65 people.

As years and sales went on, my father, Joseph Holcomb, in 1873, came into possession of the property, including the house that Henry Rieff built. My brother, Bruce Holcomb, was born here. But there's a big joke on Bruce and me. In 1876, my father sold Lots 5, 6, 7, 8, together with the dwelling to James W. Jones for \$2,400, and a few months ago, in 1950, Mr. Callison sold Lot 8, with slight variations, in the southeast corner, for \$17,000. I suspect he turned this sum back to Lots 5, 6, 7, on which he has constructed at a much greater cost this beautiful building which is to make its contribution to the history of Fayetteville and Washington County.

Henry Rieff built his home on these lots in 1857. It was a colonial red brick, two-story, not unlike the Stone house just across the street. At each end was a fireplace, with two large front rooms separated by a hallway leading to an L in the rear extending to the north. In the rear were a well and well house, perhaps two wells, and servant quarters. Nothing remains of these quarters. Old deeds show that Henry Rieff owned slaves. Mr. Callison's sense of beauty has led him to retain the colonial atmosphere of the hall with its old hall-tree and the walnut bannister, newel post and spindles. (There are still several of these old walnut stairways in Fayetteville. Perhaps the best example is in the Stone house. The stairway is beautifully paneled and the bannister is unchanged.)

In its day the Rieff home was a social center where Henry and his wife, Sarah (Sallie), were gracious hosts. Mr. Rieff married Sarah O. Wilson, the daughter of Washington Wilson, who established a dry goods business, perhaps Fayetteville's first, on the north side of the square. Washington Wilson came to Fayetteville in 1830 and was one of the charter members of the Masonic Lodge in 1835. Mrs. Sallie Rieff was one of the charter members of the Southern Memorial Association who met in the Methodist Church, June 10, 1872, for the purpose of securing and preparing a site for suitable burial of the Confederate dead of the battles of Fayetteville, Prairie Grove and Pea Ridge. According to Mrs. Wager's letter in FLASHBACK, Aug.-Sept. 1951, Henry Rieff attained the rank of Colonel in the Confederate Army. Henry Rieff was born Oct. 23, 1823, and died Aug. 29, 1874. He lies buried in Rieff cemetery and his tombstone bears the Masonic emblem.

Thus far this sketch has led us to the grass roots of Fayetteville and the historic auction. But the history of the Rieff family, like that of many pioneers in Arkansas, carries us back to those sturdy men and women whose courage and the will-to-act helped to form this nation as well as this city and this county. Henry Rieff's grandfather was Christopher Rieff, born of German descent in Pennsylvania where he lived during the Revolutionary War; thence he moved to Wilson county, Tennessee, in 1800. He died in 1824. His wife, Mary Wilschannah, was born in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. Their son, John Rieff, who became the father of Henry, was born in Winchester, Virginia, in 1787. He later lived in Wilson County, Tennessee. John Rieff married Hannah Ross Rieff, who was born in North Carolina, her father, Mr. Ross, having come from Ireland in 1750. This Ross, the grandfather of Henry Rieff, fought in the Revolutionary War and guarded prisoners at Guilford Court House. John Rieff's brothers, as well as those of Hannah Ross, fought in the Creek Indian War and in the Mexican War under General Jackson.

John and Hannah Rieff sold their farm in Wilson County, Tennessee, and set out for Arkansas in 1838. They took up their abode about six miles south of Fayetteville. They and their sons seem to have owned a large acreage -- the Kelly place, Kessler Mountain and what is now known as Trent Mountain. The family owned properties also in Fayetteville. In platting the land, John Rieff reserved an acre of ground for the Rieff cemetery and an acre for Rieff's Chapel. The chapel was built and used as a church for many years. It was destroyed by the cyclone. There are still remains of it.

Recently, in search of Rieff history, I drove out to the old Rieff home plot, up through the Johnson pear orchard and on to the top of the hill where lies the old Rieff cemetery with its gray sandstones, burial vaults and marble slabs. As I looked out over the surrounding picturesque hills at the distant mountains against the blue sky with its gray clouds, and at the valleys between the rolling hills, I could well understand why John and Hannah would settle here to hew out of the wilderness an abiding place for the generations to come. The old cemetery, surrounded by old stack stone-walls, is well kept by the present community. There are other stack walls on the place, evidently built with slave labor. In the cemetery are many sandstone markers and several burial vaults. The vaults are made of native stone, the tops in one piece and the sides of beautiful symmetrical slabs quarried no doubt from the neighboring hills. One of them, lovingly placed in this sacred spot, moss covered and overgrown with lichens that glittered in the sunlight, disclosed the following inscription:

"Here lies Hannah - the wife of my youth - the mother of my children. Born Dec. 12, 1781 - Died Apr. 17, 1853. John Rieff."

Nearby to the south is a footmarker bearing the initials J.R. and not far away, part of a broken marble headstone on which is inscribed "Aged 82 yrs. 11 mos. 14 days." The other pieces are gone. Surely this is the resting place of John Rieff, born in Winchester, Virginia, on June 9, 1787, husband of Hannah. Other stones bear the names of Washington Rieff, born 1811, died 1861; Orren M. Rieff, born 1810, died 1894; and Henry Rieff, born 1823, died 1874; all sons of John and Hannah. Other families represented are Brinson, Kelly, Jones, Cato, Kessler. One stone to be remembered is that of Mrs. Margaret Morgan, the "Aunt Margaret" who kept many valuable papers now in possession of Mrs. Sidney Rieff and Thelma Rieff Mitchell of Paragould. Thelma tells me that Aunt Margaret wrote in her diary "granddaddy (sic) Mankins died in 1881, aged 111 years." And this is the A. Mankins who helped carry the chain when the city of Fayetteville was surveyed.

Orren M. Rieff, perhaps with his brother Henry, took the contract from Robert W. Mecklin to build the chapel at the Ozark Institute. (The Rieffs from early days were contractors and builders.) This same Orren M. Rieff, according to Col. J.H. VanHoose, built for Robert Graham the college on the Bentonville Road, now College Avenue. There are living in the county at the present many Rieff descendants. Among them are Sidney Rieff Jr., the Kellys, Mrs. Arthur Johnson, Cloyd and Hugh Rieff and Mrs. Ruth Rieff Kurley. Thelma Rieff Mitchell of Paragould, who has driven to Fayetteville for this dedication, is the daughter of James Franklin Rieff, well known in Fayetteville, now deceased.

But back again to Lots 5, 6, 7, 8 and to Henry Rieff who set the foundation and made the beginning of this beautiful building — today the realization of a long heart-felt desire on the part of Mr. Callison. Thanks to the soul of the architect that lies within Mr. Callison, here in this restoration and re-creation are preserved the spirit and tone of the old Rieff colonial.

Between \$2,400 and \$17,000 lies great economic progress. But in history there is a world of values not measured by dollars and cents. It is for those of us here in the living present to emulate these values, which gave power to our predecessors — ideals, courage, will power, fearlessness, tolerance, love, strength, faith in God and in the destiny of a freeman, in a free city, a free nation, and a free world that is yet to be.

News and Comment

Officers of the WCHS are telling the story of Washington County's early history wherever they can find listeners. Miss Holcombe, vice-president, spoke on Springdale's early days to the Business and Professional Women's Club at Springdale on Nov. 19. W.J. Lemke, president, will speak on "History as a Hobby" to the Daughters of American Colonists on Dec. 1.

-WCHS-

While in southeast Arkansas last month, I drove over to Lake Village to call on Mrs. Pelham McGehee, the former Mary Peel of Fayetteville. It had occurred to me that she might have some of the material that her mother, Zillah Cross Peel, had accumulated during a quarter century of active work in Arkansas history. Mrs. Peel headed the WPA Federal History Project in Washington County, besides doing a lot of freelance writing on historical subjects. Mrs. McGehee has several boxes filled with her mother's manuscripts, clippings and letters. I had time for only a quick look at the material but hope to go back to Lake Village some time for a more thorough check.

-WCHS-

Through the courtesy of the Rev. Thomas J. Kennedy, pastor of St. Joseph's Church at Tontitown, our Society archives now contain a copy of the 32-page program of the 53rd annual Grape Festival, held at Tontitown Aug. 14-16, 1951. A member of the WCHS, Mrs. Dorothy Byrnes Benbrook of Fayetteville, has written some personal reminiscences of Father Bandini, founder of Tontitown, and of the visit of Baron des Planches, Italian ambassador -- on which occasion Mrs. Benbrook was one of the hostesses. Her article will appear in the next FLASHBACK.

-WCHS-

Cpl. Harvey Donegan, UofA graduate now in the Marine Corps, stationed at Camp Joseph H. Pendleton, California, was browsing in a Los Angeles book store a few weeks ago and spotted a copy of "Pictures and Poems of Arkansas", published in 1908 by Mrs. Bernie Babcock and O.C. Ludwig. He bought it and sent it to me. It is a collector's item. Mrs. Babcock still lives in Little Rock; she received the Litt.D. degree from the U of Arkansas last year. The late O.C. Ludwig was editor of Springdale's first newspaper, The Enterprise, in 1882, and was later secretary of state of Arkansas for three terms.

-WCHS-

W. H. Halliburton, historian and newspaper editor, dropped in at the Caddo Hotel when I visited Arkadelphia recently. I'm always glad to see him. I envy him on two counts; first, his connection, via the Halliburtons, with the very beginnings of Arkansas; and second, because of his access to the 80-year-old files of the Southern Standard, the Arkadelphia weekly which he edits. There's aren't many Arkansas newspapers that can show their files for 80 years.

-WCHS-

Prof. J.H. Atkinson, president of the Arkansas Historical Association and member of the WCHS, writes to suggest the addition of four titles to the list of county histories published in FLASHBACK No. 5. They are: Arkansas County, by W.H. Halliburton; Crawford County, by Miss Clara Eno; Lawrence County, by Walter E. McLeod; and Jackson County, by W.E. Bevens. Mr. Atkinson, who is on the Little Rock Junior College faculty, published a list of 14 county histories in the Arkansas Democrat of Oct. 28. He says: "More than three-fourths of the counties have no published histories and few have local historical societies. It is unfortunate that we have already let so much of our local history perish. It is little less than tragic if we continue to neglect it."

Some Rieff Records from 1814 to 1861
by W. J. Lemke

Being romantically inclined, I am easily moved by the lure and lore of the olden days. However, my newspaper training furnishes a guard against complete surrender to the charm of the past. I want to know who, what, where and when-- but I also want to know why. In historical research, the why is oftentimes hard to discover. But the search is always fascinating. The bare facts may be obtained from the record -- printed in newspapers, preserved in books, recorded in the musty files of public officers. But the things that "made a man tick" are best obtained from his personal letters and business records.

So it was a delightful experience to get acquainted with the Rieffs. John Rieff, who came to brand-new Fayetteville in 1838; Orren, his versatile son; and Henry, another son, whose ante-bellum home our Society recently marked with a memorial tablet. They, and their kin-folk and descendants, were community builders.

Miss Holcombe's tribute to the Rieffs, on the occasion of our dedication of the memorial marker, appears in this issue of FLASHBACK. In our search for Rieff material, we visited the old Rieff homestead near Cato Springs. We climbed the hill to that lovely old graveyard, crowned by a single tall and wind-whipped pine, and stood beside the graves of John and Hannah Rieff, the pioneers, and of Orren and Henry Rieff, who a century ago built Ozark Institute and Arkansas College.

We left the Rieffs for a while, to visit the grave of "T.J.Kelly, Co. B, 1st Ark. Vol., Mexican War, 1818-1897." And to pause oh-so-briefly at a weathered little headstone that bore these two words, "Martha's Child." One helped to make history; the other didn't. But I know at which grave the tears were shed.

Miss Holcombe, tireless in her search for Rieff material, contacted the Rieff heirs. And struck a gold mine of hundred-year-old letters, deeds, and other records, that tell more about these pioneers than all previously published information. Also, they give a picture of social and economic conditions in Washington County a century ago. From this material I have selected representative documents and letters for publication. They appear below, with explanatory comment where needed.

1

I certify hereby that John Rieff volunteered in my troop of cavalry under the acts of Congress of Feb and July 1812, and furnished a substitute in his room who performed the time authorized by law. Given under my hand this 29th of August 1814. Thos. Bradley, Capt.

2

A deed dated Oct.22,1838, whereby John and Mary McGarrah(X her mark) conveyed to John Rieff for \$35 "the South half of the Northwest quarter of the Southeast quarter of Section 31 in Township 16N of Range 30 West, containing 20 acres. This deed is signed by A, H, McKisick, J.P. and is endorsed "Filed for record" by B.H.Smithson, clerk. The filing fee was \$2.25, divided as follows: recording \$1.25; tax .50; certificate and seal .50. This deed is on a printed form (good rag paper and well printed), "sold by Wm. E.Woodruff, Little Rock, Ark's". Woodruff, of course, was the founder of the Arkansas Gazette (1819) and the state printer for many years.

3

A deed dated Dec.12, 1846, whereby John and Levina West (X her mark) conveyed to John Rieff Lot 1 in Block 7, and Lot 5 in Block 17, except 50 feet off of west end of Lot 5 in Block 17 previously conveyed by deed to Abraham Evard. This deed was endorsed "Filed for Record" by Presly R. Smith, clerk of circuit court.

4

In 1854 John Rieff transferred ownership of all his property, real and personal, to Henry Rieff, and five years later Henry deeded it back to his father. The reason for this is obscure. The transfer on Oct. 13, 1854, covered 6 parcels of land, 2 Negro slaves (Madison 32 and Wesley 18), all horses, cattle, hogs and sheep, all farming utensils including wagons, all household furniture, and all debts "due or owing to me." The deed included this provision: "I reserve the right to use and possess any or all of said property during my natural life."

The property was returned on Mar. 8, 1859, when Henry and Sarah O. Reiff (sic) transferred to John Rieff "all....which were conveyed to said Henry Reiff by said John Reiff 13 October 1854." (The name is spelled both Rieff and Reiff on the various documents; family letters are all signed Rieff.)

5

On Aug.4, 1866, Henry and Sarah O. Rieff sold to O.M.Rieff 158 acres for \$490. This transfer was endorsed by George W.M.Reed, clerk Circuit Court, bears a new and elaborate county seal, and bears six U.S. internal revenue stamps, each stamp cancelled with initials "HR SOR" and the date. The filing fee was \$1.40, divided as follows: filing and recording .50, certificate .40, county tax .50.

6

This is to certify that Brother John & Hannah Rieff and his son George W. Rieff have been acceptable members of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Lebanon Circuit, Bethel Society, Tennessee Conference. Given & assigned in behalf of said Society this 9th of February 1838. G.H.Bransford A.P.

7

A typical tax receipt of the 1840's is this one, filled in on a small printed receipt form:

	Fayetteville, Ark's, November 3, 1841
Received of John Reiff	\$3.38 3/4-100 State Tax; and
	\$4.51 3/4-100 County Tax; and
	\$3.38 3/4-100 Jail Tax;

for the year 1841. P. R. Smith, Shff
(Totaled up on the back of this receipt, showing total of \$11.29 1/4, to which \$1.50 was added, possibly poll tax, making Rieff's taxes for the year \$12.79 1/4. In business transactions of the 1840's and 1850's, cents were divided into quarter-cents.)

8

A typical business receipt of the early 40's was this one, written in ink on a small piece of paper:

Recd from John Rieff Esq One Hundred and twenty-five Dollars a/c.
James Sutton
pr J. L. Dickson

(A promissory note of the early 9 1840's, filled in on a blank note form printed in cursive type.)

Six months after date, we, John Rieff as principal and Wm. Skelton and Wm. McGarrah as his securities, promise to pay to the BANK OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS the sum of Fifty Dollars, negotiable and payable at the Branch of said Bank, at Fayetteville, without defalcation, for value received. Witness our hands, and the Cashier of said Branch Bank is hereby authorized to date this note.

John Rieff
Wm. Skelton
Wm. McGarrah (X his mark)

(A notation on the back of the note shows that it was paid promptly, the interest for the six months being \$1.78.)

John Rieff's taxable property for the year 10 1847 was as follows:

320 acres of land.....\$ 960
2 town lots..... 100
4 slaves..... 1250
5 head of horses..... 125
10 head of cattle..... 80
\$ 2515

(Signed) E. O. Brion, Sheriff

Articles of agreement made & entered into this 11 6th day of July A.D. 1843 between O.M.Rieff on the one part & the subscribers of the other part. Witnesseth:

That the said O. M. Rieff proposeth to teach a common reading school at the school-house near Wesley Marr's for a term of five months, 21 days to constitute a month & six & one-half hours to make a day;

Provided, the subscription is sufficient to warrant the undertaking; at the following price for each scholar during the session (towit) \$4.

Orthography, Reading, Writing, & the first principles of Arithmetic will be taught to all who may desire it as far as practicable during the session:

The practice of morality will be strictly inculcated & as much as possible vice & immorality prevented. Students over the age of twelve years who violate or refuse to be governed by the rules of the school will be expelled without formality.

The subscribers agree further to do what work may be necessary to render the said school house comfortable during the cold weather; also to furnish books, paper & other things that may be necessary for the proper instruction of their children, during the session.

The said O. M. Rieff agrees to take in payment for subscription the following articles if delivered at his residence at their cash value-- on or before the expiration of the school, (viz) corn, wheat, pork, sheep, wool, tallow, beeswax, and young cattle.

Subscribers names:

Wesley Marrs	James M. Campbell	Elizabeth Rutherford
John Peerson	Wm. D. Reed	Levi Combs
Nicholas Yates	Aaron Hughs	Davie Castc
H. P. Ross	John Alexander	Saml Tulk
James Lawrence	John Reed	Archibald Bryant
Lytle Bryant	Thos. C. Patton	R. Rutherford
		Joseph Carney

Among the letters in the Rieff collection is one written by Henry Rieff from Wilson County, Tennessee, where he had gone on a visit. It is dated June 19, 1847, and is addressed to his brother, O.M.Rieff. Most of the letter is devoted to his impressions of Tennessee, which were unfavorable. The concluding paragraph suggests a parallel with 1951. It reads as follows:

"The Tennessee Volunteers are returning home. They had great times when they reached Nashville. The Whigs are running General Taylor for President, and the Democrats are for him too. The Whigs say he is a Whig and the Democrats say he is a Democrat. So both parties are holding on to him. It may be a good thing that they are, for it may unite the parties. Be this as it may, I hope our country will become more united."

This agreement made this 1st day of March A.D.1852 between O.M.Rieff of the first part and Samuel Smith of the second part,

Witnesseth that the partys above named have agreed to unite their labor and work together the present year for the purpose of making a crop upon the following conditions:

The first party to furnish a hand to work all the time that the second party works, towit his son Robert Stewart, also the land for the various products they may raise, the team & utensils for cultivating the ground, and the wagon & team to do the necessary hauling for the gathering in the different products; the seeds that may be required for the planting & sowing, etc.

The second party agrees to work all the time that may be necessary to cultivate & gather in the various products that may be raised & he is for his services to receive the following named part of what may be raised:

The wheat to get cut & got ready for the mill; one-third to be his. The oats to be sown, ploughed in, cut & gathering in; one-third to belong to the second party. Corn, grapes, cotton, potatoes, onions, cabbages & tobacco when gathered in, one-third to belong to the second party. Fodder, one half to belong to Samuel Smith. And if any turnips are raised by the said partys, the one half to belong to the second party by his helping to clear & put in the land necessary for raising the same. If any assistance may be necessary at any time the expense to be equally borne by the partys.

If any disagreement should occur between us we agree to submit the matter in dispute to three disinterested persons who are to decide according to the basis here laid down & also in accordance with equity & justice.

In testimony whereof we hereunto subscribe our names the day & date above written.

O. M. Rieff
Samuel Smith

On the back of the above agreement appears Henry M. Rieff's work record. Those for whom he worked "in threshing wheat" were: Avis West, Fanny Mason, Mrs.Reed, Rachel Diekerson, John VanHoose, Peter Mankins, Mr.Long, Mrs. Helbert, Jake Mills, Mrs.Johnson, Rily James, Mrs.Mills, Capt. Lewis, Thomas Robison. Those for whom he worked "on Mane fork of Wite ravr" were: Mr. Shelds, Mrs. Williams, John Ritter, John White and Mr. Pool.

(Robert S. Rieff, son of Orren M. and Mary A. Rieff, entered the Confederate army in April 1861. A letter from him to his parents is of more than passing interest, because it was written at Camp Walker in Benton County where a considerable number of Washington County men were stationed. Robert Rieff lost his life in the war, at the youthful age of 24.)

Camp Walker, June the 17, 1861

Dear Father & Mother

I avail myself of the present opportunity of writing you a few lines to let you know that I am well at the present time and I hope that these few lines may find you all enjoying the same blessing.

I would like to hear from you all very much for I have not heard from you since I left home. This makes three letters that I have written since I have been here. I wrote to you on the 5th of this month and one to John on the 12th & I have not got an answer yet.

I would like to see you all but I do not know when I will get the chance to come home but if we can not get to see each other & Talk face to face, we can write to each other & know & hear from each other in that way, but still it would be more pleasant to be with you. But if we can not be together all the time here in this low ground of sorrow I hope we will meet again where parting is not known and sorrow never comes.

You must tell the girls to write to me & there is Henry and Margaret or any of them that can write at all. It would give me a great deal of pleasure to hear from any of you if it is only a few lines. Tell them to write it, for most any of them can write as good a letter as I can. I would like to know how your wheat has done & what is the prospect for corn ect.

We have been mustered into the Service for six months and Unkle Jef thinks that our time commenced from the time that we mustered at the Walnut Grove & if so there is nearly two months of our time out. We are here but we are not doing any thing at all, only lying about & eating. We are all getting fat and saucy. There is not any sickness of account in our Company. Some of them have had the diure(sic) and there is one man that had the mumps and he is in the same mess that I am but it has been about fifteen days since he took them and there is not anybody else taken them yet & I am in hopes that they will not go any further.

We have not drawn any money yet and I do not expect that we will draw any for some time yet but as soon as we do I will try and send you some or come and bring it for I want to get a furlough about the last of July if I can and come home. There has been some eight or ten got furloughs all ready and I think that I can get one by the last of July or before.

We have not drawn any arms only these carbines and a few of these old holsters and I expect that they are about all that we will get and we have not got any ammunition for them yet, only a little lead that came in today. We are in rather a bad condition for defense if an enemy should come upon us. But I do not think that we are in any more danger here than we would be at home.

There is eight or nine Companies here and some of them is very well armed and some is not. I must now bring my letter to a close for the want of something to write. Tell Miss Mary that I would like to hear from her. Excuse my bad spelling and writing. Write soon and give me all the news. So nothing more at present. Give my love to all and receive the same to yourselves. So I remain as ever your affectionate son.

R. S. Rieff

to O.M. and M.A. Rieff

David Walker Writes from Little Rock 115 Years Ago

Judge David Walker of Fayetteville went to Little Rock in January, 1836, to help write the constitution and set up the government of the new state of Arkansas. On Jan. 9, 1836, he wrote the following letter to his wife in Fayetteville. The letter is in the possession of Miss Gertrude Stockard, a member of our Society, who is a kinswoman of the Walker family.

Little Rock, 9th Jany 1836

"Dear Wife: I have been writing for nearly three hours shut up in the convention hall alone. It is now late and I have just finished drafting a Declaration of Rights (a part of the Constitution). We are doing more business and in better feeling than I expected, yet the exciting question is not yet reported. I am in fine health and have equipt myself with a full new suit of the finest cloth (in Rome I must be a Roman). I have not forgotten your memorandum, have bought every article you sent for and more too. If I can get them on I will send them by the first opportunity.

"We have had very fine weather. The peach trees are in bloom, and we have not had fire in our dining room since I came down. We have eight boarders at our house. Mr.Bean and Whinnry of the number. You need not expect me so soon as I thought when I wrote. Send my love to Mama and say that I have the finest black shawl for her in all the city.

"I left a letter in my secretary directed to H.R.Mynson, Batesville. Please get it and put it in the next mail for me. Take care of the boys, write to me and I will come home soon as I can. Farewell.

D. Walker"

In Business at Sulphr City 44 Years

In our search for individuals and firms who have been in business in Washington County for 25 years or longer we heard that E. W. Price had been operating a general merchandise store at Sulphur City for a long time. To our request for information Mr. Price write the following, which we take pleasure in printing, because it represents the spirit that has made our county outstanding in a business way and in almost every other way.

Sulphur City, Sppt. 3,1951

I began business Aug. 1, 1907, at the present location. I have built two store buildings. The first one burned in 1933 and I lost a \$5,000 stock completely. I have freighted by wagon and team from Fayetteville (12 miles) for the first 35 years. I have seen some good times and some bad times. I served on the local school board for 30 years. Nothing has been such a detriment to this community as consolidating the school. I sent three of my children away to high school and furnished my own transportation, sometimes walking 5 miles, at other times on horseback. All completed high school and two now have positions as teachers. I have acquired a nice farm and sufficient stock. I still think there is room in the country for a country man. There are only two living men left here that were here when I came to this community. I have been a resident of this county 63 years. I have seen many changes.

E. W. Price

If you own old letters or records that you think would be of interest to our members, or if you have old scrapbooks containing clippings, programs, and other material of historic interest, we'dd like to see them. Call any member of our board of directors: W.J.Lemke, Mrs.Lessie Stringfellow Read, Miss Jobelle Holcombe, Tom Feathers, F. S. Root, Miss Grace Albright, Miss Mary Droke, F.M.McConnell, A.S.Humphreys.

Fayetteville School Board Lists Tax-Payers in 1885
by F. S. Root

As was but natural there was limited respect for laws enacted during the reconstruction period in southern states. Arkansas and even Washington County was no exception in this matter. Thus it was not unusual for a considerable number of citizens to fail to assess or even pay local taxes.

As the public school (free school) was not very popular, local school revenues were almost nil at times. This was especially true in Washington County and the later Fayetteville School District because of the popularity of the local academies, seminaries and private schools.

In 1871 the Fayetteville School District was organized under a special act of the legislature. The major portion of the school revenues was derived from state sources, sale of school lands, forfeitures, and special state fines, with but little interest in local school levies. These limited revenues prevented early erection of school buildings. Varying lengths in school terms held in store buildings, churches, and the old Masonic Hall, composed the school program.

A growing interest in the public school prompted the school board to hold in reserve a portion of the annual school revenues for building purposes. Thus in 1881 a public school building (named the Washington School in 1891) was erected, with completion of six of the possible nine classrooms in the building. All revenues having been consumed in the erection of this building, there were no funds for the operation of a school term, and for a considerable time, the class rooms were leased to teachers who conducted private tuition schools.

An awakening interest in the public school and an almost insignificant increase in school revenues stimulated the schoolboard in efforts to acquire increased revenue. To this end, in 1885 (as the school records show) the school board made a complete list of the tax payers within the Fayetteville School District for the assistance of the assessor and the tax collector in making assessments and collecting taxes. So far as school records show, the following is the first complete list of tax payers ever made, to the end that increased local school revenues might be available.

The following list, taken from the early minutes of the Fayetteville School Board, is a copy of the list of tax payers within the Fayetteville School District in 1885.

(Note: Doubtful legibility of penmanship may have resulted in incorrect spelling of a few names in this copy.)

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Michael O'Connell | 16. J. M. Tucker |
| 2. Aaron Morrison | 17. J. H. Cooper |
| 3. J. C. Thornton . | 18. Josh Thompson |
| 4. Linn Cline | 19. Clay Carter |
| 5. Sam Gallaher | 20. Wallace Pettigrew |
| 6. W. G. Taylor | 21. Chas. Bonner |
| 7. Will Smith | 22. Hiram Jackson |
| 8. B. H. Stone | 23. Sam Young |
| 9. A. B. Hale | 24. Clinton McKinney |
| 10. Oscar Richter | 25. Reding Putman |
| 11. J. L. Blakely | 26. W. L. Call |
| 12. H. L. Crouch | 27. Reuben Carter |
| 13. S. K. Stone | 28. J. L. Carlisle |
| 14. Alexander Hendry | 29. Frank H. Ellis |
| 15. L. B. Tucker | 30. C. B. Paddock |

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31. Chas. Richardson	89. A. B. Briely	147 J. D. Wilson
32. Wm. Standifer	90. E. Andrews	148 Wm. Leister
33. Jeff Cooper	91. M. McFadden	149 W. M. Bozarth
34. Ike Combs	92. Henry Sweitzer	150 T. M. Bishop
35. D.B. Jobe	93. Isaac Taylor	151 T. Ellis
36. W. C. Crouch	94. David Stirman	152 A. L. Trent
37. J. N. Vaughan	95. Rufus Vaughan	153 C. P. Conrad
38. Patrick Henry	96. D. W. McCrimmin	154 John A. Gilbert
39. Spence VanWinkle	97. Jack Denton	155 M. F. Gray
40. C. F. Lang	98. Al Taylor	156 M. S. Courtwright
41. Reuben Smith	99. E. L. Fisher	157 George Sutton
42. Seabourn Tuttle	100 Mrs. Florence Fisher	158 Wm. McIlroy
43. Thomas Baker	101 Joe Liles	159 F. Smith
44. C. Camstock	102 E. S. Liles	160 A. B. Lewis
45. T. C. Melbourn	103 Lee Baum	161 W. P. McNair
46. P. R. Smith	104 L. T. Blakemore	162 John S. West
47. A. J. Phillips	105 J. W. Quick	163 Jas. A. Ferguson
48. R. L. McCarty	106 Chas. Tyson	164 W. H. Woodall
49. John Conway	107 Willis Pettigrew	165 W. D. Harris
50. Thomas Jennings	108 Gus Volner	166 R. M. Daugherty
51. Jas. Mosby	109 T. A. Swaitzer	167 J. C. Pettigrew
52. Tucker Bailey	110 J.C. McClelland	168 J. W. O'Neal
53. C. M. Crouch	111 W. W. Moore	169 H. D. Harmon
54. A. E. Crouch	112 G. W. M. Reed	170 John Harmon
55. E. Rutherford	113 Marshal Moore	171 Pal Tye
56. J. E. C. Hodge	114 J. L. Dickson	172 A. S. Gregg Sr.
57. J. M. Smith	115 W. E. Williams	173 C. R. Gilbreath
58. Tom Robson	116 A. S. Gregg Jr.	174 P. A. Crawford
59. W. W. Harrison	117 L. Griffin	175 J. H. Poor
60. John Berry	118 George Stirman	176 W. C. Cardwell
61. Wm. Flynn	119 W. A. Gregg	177 Oscar Ellis
62. J. D. Walker	120 R. J. Wilson	178 John Walker
63. Si Smith	121 W. G. Pomeroy	179 W. H. Whitlow
64. W. P. Moulden	122 H. S. Gray	180 T. W. Cline
65. E. E. Morris	123 H. M. Welch	181 T. P. Harrison
66. W. S. Tunstill	124 Joseph Zillah	182 J. H. Williams
67. Jas. Dalton	125 W. H. Corley	183 Z. M. Pettigrew
68. J. E. Crouch	126 W. L. Harris	184 M. Mock
69. W. C. James	127 J. R. Southworth	185 S. H. Blackmer
70. J. M. Dannell	128 S. E. Marrs	186 John W. Buie
71. A. Bryant	129 Jack McCarty	187 John Feathers
72. Oscar Strother	130 Chas. Dale	188 J. P. Scott
73. T. W. White	131 Scott Wilson	189 D.W.C. Davenport
74. G. D. Mhoon	132 H. F. Buie	190 J. F. Johnson
75. W. W. Hulse	133 J. C. Massie	191 Wiley Poor
76. Geo. S. Albright	134 Ans. McCullock	192 W. F. Stirman
77. J. E. Vaughan	135 Robert Alexander	193 R. S. Curry
78. J. C. Holliman	136 L. W. Gregg	194 L. Gregg
79. J. B. Coffey	137 L. D. Middleton	195 W. M. Dyer
80. Harry Kaiser	138 B. F. Moore	196 J. R. Benbrook
81. Chas. Smith	139 J. J. Vaulx	197 J. J. Curry
82. Joseph George	140 John Zillah	198 J. W. Gee
83. Barney Clark	141 R. R. Smith	199 C. L. Summers
84. H. L. Glass	142 E. B. Fuqua	200 C. R. Buckner
85. I. A. Jack	143 E. Loy	201 G. R. Murdock
86. James Barnes	144 O. C. Gray	202 J. S. Conner
87. Fritz Muden	145 J. T. Wilkinson	203 John Glander
88. R. C. Choate	146 H. Grother	204 C. J. Healy

- 205 White Washington
 206 Wm. Agee
 207 R. S. Stone
 208 J. T. Lancaster
 209 Jack McRoy
 210 Frank Marrs
 211 J. C. Massie Jr.
 212 J. V. Walker
 213 A. B. Newsom
 214 Press Johnson
 215 John Pollard
 216 C. L. Jernigan
 217 H. J. Jackson
 218 Geo. T. Lake
 219 C. W. Walker
 220 E. B. Wall
 221 Thomas Mullins
 222 W. T. Barry
 223 Wm. Summers
 224 Wm. Taylor
 225 A. L. Williams
 226 J. W. Hansard
 227 Perry Macklin
 228 J. P. Wood
 229 John McGarrah
 230 George Cooper
 231 W. M. Knight
 232 W. N. Crenshaw
 233 J. W. Reiff
 234 P. O'Brien
 235 A. B. Kell
 236 Jeff Moore
 237 John S. O'Brien
 238 W. B. Pope
 239 W. H. Cravens
 240 T. D. French
 241 Andrew Anderson
 242 George Lindley
 243 J. T. Taylor
 244 L. J. Duke
 245 J. B. Nix
 246 S. W. Davies
 247 W. A. Douglas
 248 T. J. Pollard
 249 A. H. Miller
 250 Josh Gaines
 251 J. W. Stirman
 252 H. D. Wood
 253 M. W. Dorman
 254 C. S. Hauptman
 255 J. C. Williams
 256 S. Gehagan
 257 William Bly
 258 W. N. Simmonds
 259 C. W. Trott
 260 George Robinson
 261 Charles Dott
 262 Jacob Nathan
 263 Jim Wheat
 264 T. A. Reynolds
 265 M. Coffey
 266 J.M.Thurmond
 267 W. F. Pace
 268 Clifford Boles
 269 Jeff Conner
 270 T. B. Benton
 271 J.D.VanWinkle
 272 I. North
 273 C. C. Conner
 274 W. B. Welch
 275 H. B. Edmiston
 276 F. L. Harvey
 277 J. H. VanHoose
 278 J. B. Cox
 279 J. M. Pittman
 280 H. A. Dinsmore
 281 E.B.Harrison
 282 C. S. Gray
 283 W. F. Thomas
 284 W. R. Mhoon
 285 Chas. M. Green
 286 W. A. Cook
 287 R. A. Miller
 288 G.W.Williams
 289 W. E. Nix
 290 David Walker Sr
 291 J. T. Vaughan
 292 David Walker Jr
 293 C.A.Mulholland
 294 J. L. Cravens
 295 Jack Foster
 296 Albert Byrnes
 297 Mart. Garrett
 298 J. T. Reynolds
 299 L.D.Middleton&Co.
 300 Reed, Mulholland
 & White
 301 Mrs.C.M.McCarty
 302 Mrs.J.McKisskick
 (Col.)
 303 Mrs.Mary Albright
 304 Mrs.M.J.Atkins
 305 Adams Express Co.
 306 Mrs. N. B. Bates
 307 J. L. Bozarth
 308 Mrs. C. Boles
 309 Boles & Conner
 310 T.D.Boles Estate
 311 L. Bishop (Minor)
 312 Mrs.A.M.Botefuhr
 313 Charles Bigole
 314 James Bolin
 315 Baum Bros.
 316 Moses Baum
 317 T. J. Conner
 318 Choate & Nathan
 319 R. C. Choate
 320 Mrs.Adeline Collier
 321 Mrs.N.J.Crockett
 322 Curry Bros.
 323 James Carter
 324 Mrs.M.J.Davenport
 325 Mack Devin
 326 Fay.Lumber Co.
 327 Gregg & Smith
 328 L. W. Gregg
 329 Mrs. M. Goodrich
 330 W. W. Harrison
 331 North & Pollard
 332 NW Fruit & Veg.Co.
 333 Mrs. M. Obenchain
 334 Mrs.Mary B. Paddock
 335 B.H.Stone & Co.
 336 Singer Mfg Co.
 337 Mary Vaughan
 338 Mrs.Temp.VanWinkle
 339 J. D. VanWinkle
 340 Western Union Tel.Co
 341 Sam Watts
 342 Whitlow & Lake
 343 J.C.Williams & Co.
 344 Mrs. Nora Wood
 345 Mrs. S. J. Young
 346 Mrs. Zillah
 347 Uriah Cate
 348 Selkirk & Co.
 349 Democrat Pubg Co.
 350 J. N. Tillman
 351 Mrs. J. W. Woods
 352 J. B. Shannon
 353 Burt Collier
 354 Miller & Rieff
 355 Mrs.Wade (millinery)
 356 Washington CountyBank
 357 P&GE Ry Co.
 358 Italian Fruit Co.
 (DePadola)
 359 Gilbreath & Taylor
 360 Wilson & Dickson
 361 Mrs.Maggie Williams
 362 Mrs. ___ Williams
 363 J. P. Lee
 364 Williams & Stirman
 365 C. M. Oliver
 366 Bell Telephone Co.
 367 T. J. Taylor
 368 Charles Dickson
 369 J. R. Howerton
 370 Mrs. Ellen Adkins
 371 Lee Brewer
 372 William Smith
 373 John Howard
 374 M. D. Harris
 375 Chas. Bryant

376 A. M. Wilson	411 T. J. Hunt	447 Mrs. Alvis Hodges
377 Henry VanWinkle	412 Jack Wilcox	448 Sarah E. Harris
378 Phillip Yell	413 Wm. Crook	449 J.A.Harris, Est.
379 Chas. Harrison	414 Wm. O'Brien	450 Theo Jones
380 Bob Buchanan	415 Charley Clark	451 Mrs. Schoolfield
381 Sam VanWinkle	416 George Barringer	452 A. H. Lantrip
382 J. S. Hurlburt	417 W. P. Shuford	453 John Lanier
383 B. R. Davidson	418 John Broyles	454 L. B. Stone
384 P. F. Davidson	419 George Broyles	455 P. T. McLish
385 Hugh Reagan	420 J. H. Kelton	456 John May
386 Chas. Tott	421 Stephen Kelton	457 Rev. John Mayes
387 Wm. Marion	422 Thos. Wainwright	458 Rev. Wm. Penn
388 T. M. Gunter	423 Phillip Reagan	459 J. R. Pettigrew
389 P. H. Babb	424 John Markham	460 Pendergrass & Co.
390 Mrs. Ostrander	425 Matt Broyles	461 J. F. Simonton
391 Nathan Turner	426 P. Broyles	462 H. D. Pesky
392 Wesley Maclin	427 Capt. Purdy	463 John Harris
393 W. G. Hauck	428 N. Seigler	464 Chas. Patterson
394 Steve Hewitt	429 Adam Minor	465 Mrs. S.F.Sutton
395 Henry Mhoon	430 C. H. Leverett	466 St.Louis & SF Ry.
396 Champ Taylor	431 L. E. Archias	467 E. W. Shelton
397 Alfred Morton	432 James Gee	468 W. M. Shelton
398 Ann Cunningham	433 S. P. Pittman	469 Dr. Day
399 Harvey Dow	434 Geo. M. Edgar	470 John Jones
400 R. F. Braden	435 T. L. Williams	471 R. B. Horton
401 Mrs. Virginia Jackson	436 B. F. Johnson	472 E. Z. Davies
402 Wm. Turner	437 H. F. McDaniel	473 George King
403 Jas. Burns	438 J. S. McDaniel	474 A. Darling
404 T. E. Becket	439 Wm. Dawson	475 W. F. Russell
405 John Buzzkett	440 Alex Selkirk	476 W. C. Jackson
406 P. M. Pegram	441 Bus Selkirk	477 George Droke
407 James Pegram	442 Pete Tumany	478 Mrs. M.V.Scott
408 G.F.L.Rudolph	443 Prof. Letcher	479 Capt.N.H.Bigger
409 Burtis Rudolph	444 --- Wade	480 Joe Bigger
410 W. Z. Mayes	445 N. B. Bates	481 Wm. Bozarth
	446 C. M. Biglow	482 Wm. Simmons

The latest list of tax payers filed with the county clerk by the Washington School organization, 1946, totaled 3,140. This was before the reorganization act went into effect.

An act of 1929 requiring school boards to provide certain county officials with a list of tax payers residing in the school district proved to be ineffective and became a "dead letter" in school law.

To this day it is universally conceded that assessments and tax levies are the two most perplexing problems in local government.

CORRECTION

Dr. W.J.Baerg, former chairman of the University's committee on honorary degrees, asks that the following corrections be made in the list of honorary degrees published in FLASHBACK No.4:

Under 1907-- Strike out: Ruckner, Wm.D.
Add; Meade, Rev.G.G.

Under 1910-- Foster should be Forster

Under 1922-- Strike out: Whitham, J.M.

Under 1927--Strike out: Martineau, John E.

Under 1930-- Strike out: Couch, Harvey G.

Under 1951-- Pace, Frank should be Pace, Frank, Jr.

Buzzard Roost - Silvia - Cincinnati
by Tom Feathers

In the 1820's, where now stands the ghost town of Cincinnati in western Washington County, there was opened a general store in a community known at that time as Buzzard Roost. The community developed into one of the leading commercial centers of the day. Following the removal of the Cherokees from North Carolina to Oklahoma (then known as Indian Territory), Buzzard Roost enjoyed an abundance of trade from the Cherokee Indians. The trade area for this community covered most of Washington County when the division of Lovely County was made in 1828. During this time those families settling in Fayetteville hauled most of their supplies from Buzzard Roost and Cane Hill by wagon.

With the establishment of a postoffice in the town the name was changed to Silvia, which was the postmark. Immediately after the War between the States, Silvia again made strides toward developing into a city and the name was changed, this time to Cincinnati. From 1866 to 1900 Cincinnati was the most prosperous trading center in the western part of Washington County.

At the peak of the town's growth, two mills were in operation within a mile and a half of the business area. The Silvia Mill was the first to open, just northeast of the town, and was operated until about 1915. The other mill, known as Moore's Mill and operated by Dave M. Moore, was located southeast in a valley known as Rag Hollow. The name Rag Hollow originated from the fact that the father of Roy R. May, who now lives in Cincinnati, was so conspicuous by the wearing of ragged clothes during the time he was building the mill.

Hiram Fulmer operated the only tannery in that section in 1875 and produced what was considered the best grade of kid leather. This tannery also marketed kip and oak-tan sole leather.

During 1885 there were four general mercantile stores open for business in Cincinnati. These stores were owned and operated by Bob Rhea, Marcus Bros., Charles Cox and Bill Rhea. Jim Oates was the only blacksmith and also did a general repair business. He also manufactured wagons, at the rate of two or three each year. Sam Spence was partner with Mr. Oates in the town's only hardware business, which was under the management of Mr. Spence.

During these years salesmen traveled from town to town on horseback, or in buggies. Cincinnati being one of the larger business centers, overnight stops were made here by these traveling men. This accounts for Dan Mason's success in the operation of an eleven-room hotel, where the meals were served family style. Inflation was unknown, as breakfast cost 15 cents, dinner or supper 20 cents. Mr. Mason and Bob Funnell owned and operated the town's only drug store, with Mr. Funnell as manager. G. M. File and a Mr. Condron were proprietors of the only store doing business exclusively in groceries.

One of the noted characters in the history of Cincinnati was Zeke Proctor, Indian bad man. It has never been decided whether Zeke was more afraid of the white people than they were of him. The Proctor family lived in a log house several miles west of the Arkansas line. This Indian was one who never turned his back on a white man, for fear of foul play. Zeke carried on a feud with a family by the name of Beck

living west of what is now Siloam Springs. This lasted several years, and the climax was the trial of Proctor at the Flint District courthouse for the murder of one of the Beck brothers. Before the trial Proctor made a treaty with the Federal government in which consent was given for the Indian to carry a gun at his own murder trial. The Flint District courthouse was about 10 miles south of what is now Westville, Okla. Proctor was found 'Not guilty'. The town of Proctor, Okla., was named for Bill Proctor, a son of Zeke Proctor.

In 1828 T. H. "Tiff" Thomason's grandfather came to the western part of Washington County from Tennessee. He first bought a farm in the Rhea's Mill neighborhood. There he lived until 1832 when he sold out and bought another farm in the Cincinnati community, some five miles west of the original stop. Tiff's father at this time was only 18 months old. Mr. Thomason is the third generation to make his home on the farm and operate it. His son, who recently sold a store in Cincinnati, has moved to this same farm and is developing a herd of beef cattle. He is the fourth generation to occupy and operate this site. Mr. Tiff Thomason is now 77 years of age. When he was 12, he assisted an uncle in driving cattle from a pasture which included the business area of Westville, Okla.

Today Cincinnati has almost returned to its one-store beginning. Postal authorities have closed the Cincinnati postoffice. Landmarks of a prosperous trading center in the Illinois River valley are fast disappearing. The cemetery is well kept and is probably the only thing of interest to the people of the community as a whole. What items of historical interest could be told by persons whose remains lie beneath the weathered stones of one of the county's earliest graveyards!

(The next of these articles will be items of historical interest concerning the eastern side of the county between Goshen and Wesley, and were related by a man now 87 years old who spent his boyhood in the vicinity of the Frog Level school house. T.P.)

Spelling Bee at Evansville in 1884

A member of the WCHS suggests that FLASHBACK readers might be interested in the following account of an old-time spelling bee, as reported by "Theta" in the Fayetteville Democrat of May 29, 1884:

Evansville, Ark.--The spelling bee tonight was a brilliant affair. The commodious church building, used for a school also, was almost full of boys and girls with bows and curls and smiling faces too, many of whom took part in the spelling. They were evenly divided, well matched and enthusiastic. The contest was warm and interesting.

They were brought down, one by one, until none were left upon the threshold of victory except W.N. Butler and H.T. Lyles. Now the conflict deepens, every eye is set upon the contending two; and had you witnessed the intensity of interest manifested by the lookers-on, you would have said "Surely there is a dog-fight in our midst." Not until 9 o'clock and forty minutes was the scene changed, at which time Willie fell a victim to faulty "alkalie".

Some Extracts from Old Letters

1

A Confederate soldier writing to his wife from an eastern Arkansas camp, July 21, 1863:

"Send me Miss Crenshaw's ambrotype -- it is one of the two in the double case -- the little black-eyed one. Mrs. Gist, a sister-in-law lives in this neighborhood and has never seen her. I intend to give her the ambrotype -- Miss Lorena Crenshaw, her sister, was engaged for seven years to Gen. D.H.Hill."

2

One Galen McKinney, a teacher, writing to a cousin back east from "Washington County, Ark., Sept. 4, 1852", mentions that his son Thomas has gone with "the Rev. A.Buchanan and Lady" to the General Conference of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church at Nashville.

"We have a fine school a Half-Mile of my house, of about 70 Scholars (2 Teachers). The truth is its about as good as the one in Town, and as to the Religious training (which is all important in youth), it is quite in advance of the other."

3

Alfred M. Wilson writes in a letter to kindred in Mississippi:

"Fayetteville, Ark., Feby 14, 1861. Everything here is in great excitement (political) and really there is nothing doing except talking politics. The Southern part of Arkansas is spunky, but the northern and northwestern is much inclined to Black Republicanism and I expect will vote to fold their arms and tamely submit. I would be rejoiced at a far and final settlement of our trouble & hope it may be effected without blood, but I have no faith in its being done."

4

Mrs. John Ridge writing from Fayetteville on Jan. 18, 1854:

"Dear Sister Eliza--At the time of receiving yours of March last, I was on the eve of remmving to this town into my old home--I found the house wretchedly out of repair & for more than three months I staid here without one comfortable room--I was busy day & night attending to repairs, etc. March 5...Susan has been confined to the bed by a most obstinate disease for more than six months...Some of us have been with her till I had her brought here on a bed, that she could receive the aid of our family Physician-- She left here about a month since, after spending two months with me & is now improving slowly-- She has two children-- Her husband did think of taking a drove of cattle to California this spring, but gave it up on account of her health-- Herman has a farm cultivated by his negroes, one & a half miles from here--He says it is too lonesome for him to stay by himself, so he lives with me-- Aeneas expects to get possession of his property in a few days, when he will engage in business for himself-- Andrew is with me, but will engage in some business or study a profession 'till he becomes of age, is undecided what to do-- Flora is still a pupil of the Female Seminary established in this place by Miss Sawyer-- Lizzie, Rollin's wife, left here on the 14th of last month in company with a merchant & his lady of this town, on her way to join Rollin in California, our friends were only going with her as faras New York-- From thence they will secure company & protection for her, on her perilous journey to her husband.

(continued on next page)

"I rejoice with you in the success of your husband in California-- I hope & trust you have a kind husband to share all your joys & sorrows, of the latter however, I hope you have but few-- May you dear Eliza never by experience know the agonizing pang of a heart torn asunder by the severing of the tenderest tie that binds hearts together-- Although I have children who are very dear to me, yet I feel at times desolate & alone-- No one can fill a husband's place in our affections."

(Editor's note: The physician mentioned in line 8 of this letter was no doubt Dr.T.J.Pollard. The "merchant and his lady" mentioned in line 19 were presumably Jas. Harvey Stirman and wife, since Mrs.Stirman was perhaps Mrs.Ridge's closest friend in Fayetteville. An interesting peculiarity of Mrs. Ridge's writing is the use of the dash for periods.)

5

A.E.W.Robertson in Muscogee, writing to Rev.E.C.Starr in Cornwall, Conn., Feb.21, 1896:

"John Ridge had four sons I think, the oldest of whom, Rollin, had fine talents, and after having married in Arkansas went to California and edited a paper there until his death, when his wife and daughter took it up and I think were still carrying it on successfully.

"I suppose you know that Mrs. John Ridge, after the murder of her husband, removed with her family to Fayetteville, Arkansas, where she could give her children quite good school advantages. She was very highly esteemed by the best people of the place.

"Mrs. Boudinot, the second wife, took Mr.Boudinot's six with her and returned to Vermont, leaving two of the three daughters with their aunt, Mrs.Brinsmade in Connecticut.

"The daughter of the oldest daughter was a music teacher in the Cherokee Female Seminary at Tahlequah, where her Uncle Williams and family have resided for many years. The sons and grandsons of Mr. Boudinot seemed to inherit his talents and both Wm. and Cornelius have been very successful lawyers, but have lacked the strong Christian principle which guided his course; so far as I know Wm. has been found in the side of the right in his political eye. At the time previously to the war, the Cherokee seemed to get into the way of clearing murderers, until it seemed impossible to convict one, when Wm. Ross and Wm. Boudinot both worked as attorneys to bring an end to such a condition and were successful.

"Elias Boudinot, Mr. Boudinot's second son, studied law in Fayetteville, Ark., after his return to this country and was very highly praised as a law student by his teacher. His namesake, Wm's son, died only a few days ago at his home in Tahlequah. He had a very bright mind, and his death would be a sad blow to his father, I am sure.

"I think John Ridge was one of the most eloquent men the Cherokees ever had, and his father, Major Ridge, was a man of strong character, but I fear was not a Christian, and the son never made any profession of religion....I have reason to remember Mr. Boudinot very gratefully in my parents' account and am glad to help in perpetuating his memory. Indeed as he took very much the place of a brother to my mother during my father's sixteen months imprisonment in Milledgeville, Ga. He seemed much like an uncle to the children who were so far away from relatives and he surely was one of the most refined gentlemen I ever knew. Mr.Ridge, also, had few superiors in this respect, so that their wives were truly happy in their companionship."

In Business for a Quarter Century and Longer

FLASHBACK presents herewith a list of firms that have been in business in Washington County for 25 years or longer. The list is probably incomplete and we will be glad to make additions and receive corrections. However, it is an impressive list.

- 1860 - Democrat Publishing Co. First issue Aug.10, 1860. Plant destroyed during the War. Re-established July 4, 1868. Became a daily in 1893. Name changed to Northwest Arkansas Times.
- 1871 - McIlroy Bank. 80 years same location. "Oldest Bank in Arkansas"
- 1879 - Cravens & Co. Originally J.L.Cravens at 5 W.Mountain St.
- 1882 - Lewis Bros.Co. Oldest independent merchants left in Fayetteville. Some of early members of firm were Art Lewis, Bert Lewis, Will Lewis, Ralph Lewis, Paul Lewis, Art Gregg.
- 1887 - Fayetteville Lumber & Cement Co.
- 1889 - Moore's Funeral Chapel. Founded by Bozarth. Originally on north side of Square. Present location since 1932.
- 1892 - Fayetteville Printing Co. M. W. McRoy

- 1892 - Easton & Company. Originally in courthouse where postoffice now stands. Three generations of Easons — father and son — have owned and managed this agency.
- 1896 - J.H.Phipps Lumber Co. Originally at St.Paul.
- 1896 - Bates Bros, Market
- 1901 - Campbell-Bell, Inc. Originally on east side of Square.
- 1904 - First National Bank
- 1904 - Red Cross Drug Store
- 1905 - Guisinger Music House. Originally on west side of Square.
- 1905 - Brower Veneer Co.
- 1906 - Smelser & Eason. Founded by the late U.Z.Smelser and J.T.Eason.
- 1906 - Price-Patton Clothing Co. Originally, Price Clothing Co.
- 1907 - Ozark Grocer Co. 44 years in same location.
- 1908 - Greer Abstract Co. Founded by Ben F. Greer, father of Jas. R. Greer, who assumed operation in 1910.
- 1911 - Shipley Baking Co. Founded by W.G.Shipley on south wide Square.
- 1912 - Scott Hotel. 39 years in same location.
- 1913 - Ray's Flowers. Founded as Adams & Son. Originally located at 306 W. Lafayette.
- 1913 - Abshier-Bryan Motor Co. Originally at 14 N. East St.
- 1916 - Washington Transfer & Storage. R.F.Ash. Originally located in Washington Hotel.
- 1920 - The Blairs, Stationers.
- 1921 - Kelley Bros. Lumber Co. Original location in Springdale.
- 1924 - L.W.Brewer's Cleaners. Established OK & Milady Cleaners, now operated by sons.
- 1924 - W.V.Bird Construction Co. Original location Center St.
- 1926 - Green Chevrolet Co. P.R.Green
- 1926 - Fayetteville Drug Store. Purchased by late R.H.Clinehens 1926. Now operated by his sons.
- 1926 - Mountain Inn (Roy Brumfield). T.J.Brumfield Sr started at the Washington Hotel in 1914.

Springdale business firms that are 25 years old or older, and some old firms from elsewhere in Washington County, will be found on the next page.

Business Firms of Springdale That Are 25 Years Old or Older

- 1885 - The Pioneer Co., Inc. Same location for 66 years.
- 1887 - The Springdale News. Founded by J.P.Stafford.
- 1906 - Ewalt Realty Co.,
- 1907 - Famous Hardware Co.
- 1907 - First National Bank
- 1908 - Walker Bros.,Inc. Same location since 1908. Operated under name of Kimmons Walker from 1908 to 1924.
- 1910 - Ozark Land Co. Established by J.W.Phillips, J. S. Ewalt and R.L.Gosnell. L.S.Phillips, owner and operator, started as salesman in 1912.
- 1911 - Becker Machine Shop. Founded by J.W.G.Becker. Operating in same location by J.W.G.Becker and son, James Becker.
- 1914 - F. F. Hazel, fruit dealer. In business continuously except for two years army service.
- 1915 - S. R. Wilson Mercantile Co. Established on east corner of same block where now located.
- 1918 - Jones Truck Lines,Inc. Operated as individual, Harvey Jones, until 1949.
- 1921 - Hawkins Realty Co.
- 1921 - Kelley Bros. Lumber Co.
- 1921 - Cogger Drug Co.
- 1922 - Welch Grape Juice Co. (Springdale)
- 1923 - First State Bank
- 1923 - Springdale Baking Co. (R.M.Baker and H.L.Baker)
- 1923 - Springdale Motor Co. (Ford dealer). Started as Fletcher Motor Co. on W. Emma Avenue.
- 1926 - Jones Fuel Co. .

Other Old County Business Firms

- 1906 - J. C. Yoes, Greenland
- 1907 - E. W. Price, Sulphur City
- 1912 - Bank of Elkins, Elkins. J.E.Bunch, president and cashier, has been in banking business in Washington County 26 years, beginning with First State Bank, Springdale, 1925.
- 1912 - Richardson Mercantile Co., Wheeler. Founded by Hiram P. Richardson and operated by him until his death in 1936. Since then owned and operated by Miss Ada Hodgson.
- 1916 - McNeal Store, Farmington. D.B.McNeal was founder.
- 1922 - Luginbuel Funeral Home, Lincoln Also, at Prairie Grove.

The Account Book of Orren M. Rieff

Among the items in the Rieff collection of Washington County material is the account book of Orren M. Rieff, covering the years from 1842 to 1860.

Rieff was primarily a farmer, but he was also contractor and cabinet maker, dealer in produce and livestock, merchant, orchardist, and school teacher. He kept a meticulous record of his many-sided activities. His dealings-- at least those listed in his account book--were seldom in cash. He took hauling, blacksmithing, shoe-making, butchering, and other kinds of labor in payment for his tables and coffins, his beef and pork, his schooling and books.

For instance, in May 1844 Rieff made a table for John Rutherford, charging \$2. Rutherford paid for the table (a year later) with 2 bushels oats @ 25 cts and 3 bushels wheat @ 50 cts.

Ezekiel Venable had two deaths in his family in October 1844, and had Rieff make two coffins @ \$2 each. He paid for them by one day's work (.50), 2 bushels wheat(\$1), by "sewing done by Mrs.Venable (\$1.50) and by "cutting oats".

In April 1845 Wm. Quinton bought 50 lbs of tobacco for \$1.50. He paid for it nine months later with 3 bushels wheat.

In 1843 Aaron Hughs owed \$12 to O.M.Rieff for "schooling". He paid the bill at various times in 1844 by blacksmithing, 350 feet of plank, a gallon of whiskey, some beef, and several days labor.

Typical of the entries are these in John Kirkendoll's account for 1845:
Aug.8 -To tobacco, to be paid in 1 days work... .37
Aug.11-To one pack saddle, to be paid by cutting and splitting 450 rails..... 1.75
Aug.14-To 6 head hogs for \$5, to be paid in corn at usual gathering time..... 5.00

That same autumn (1845) Rieff sold 133 lbs beef to Parks Moseley at 1 1/4 cts per lb. Moseley's credit entries show "making 3 pair small shoes, \$1.12" and "1 1/2 days work, .56" -- which paid for the beef.

In November 1851, Wm. Howell bought 184 lbs beef from Rieff @ 2 cts per lb -- a total of \$3.68. It took him 6 days of work to pay the bill -- "chopping wood 1 day, .50; butchering hogs 1 day, \$1; and Cr. by 4 days work, \$2.18".

- Some of the prices of a century ago may be of interest:
- 1848 - Sold to Saml Ingram, one cow and calf, \$10
 - 1849 - Sold to Wm.T.Titsworth, beef @ 2 cts lb and coffee @ 10 cts lb.
 - 1849 - Sold to Wm. Willey, 60 lbs bacon @ 4 cts per lb
 - 1850 - Sold to Wm.D.Reed, on 4 different dates, 61, 41, 50 and 48 lbs beef (foreqrtrs) @ 1 1/2 cts per lb.
 - 1851 - Sold to S.S.Stapp, hindqr of mutton, 50 cts.
 - 1854 - Sold to Thomas Wade, 8 lbs fine flour @ 4 cts per lb; 14 lbs 3rd rate flour @ 3 cts per lb; 4 lbs salt @ 3 cts per lb; 1 lb candles @ 25 cts.
 - 1859 - Sold to John Hutchinson, "sow and 8 pigs and 2 shotes", \$7.

Only twice in all the years did Rieff have unsatisfactory dealings with his neighbors. One of these, in 1851, is reported as follows:
"To J.A.Campbell, 44 lbs beef foreqr @ 2 cts per lb.... .88
"Cr. by use of horse to plow in 7 acres of wheat, for which I paid him \$1.50, the first charge I ever had made against me by a neighbor for the use of a horse."

The old account book lists only a few of the many construction jobs that O.M.Rieff is known to have handled. In 1848 he did some building (probably the complete house) for Judge W. S. Oldham of Fayetteville. The itemized bill reads as follows:

May 19 - to covering house and shed and laying floor.....	\$34.84
to hewing and putting in 5 sleepers.....	1.25
to 15½ lbs brads for nailing floor.....	1.55
May 26 - to hauling plank from town.....	.50
July 21- to sawing out doors and windows.....	1.50
to making window without sash.....	2.00
to two windows and shutters without sash.....	6.00
to two windows complete with sash.....	7.00
to glazing in 40 panes of glass.....	1.00
to making one door without shutter.....	2.50
to one small door complete.....	2.75
to 4 doors complete.....	14.00
to 1 double door made by Joseph Rieff.....	8.00
to 2 book cases.....	5.50
	<u>88.39</u>
July 28- Cr. by cash \$15 and by order on Joseph Rieff \$20	
Sept. 22- Cr. by \$28 to be taken up in goods in James Sutton's store by M.C.Rieff and charged to W.S.Oldham's account. The balance \$23.58 settled by note.	

In the fall of 1850 O.M.Rieff worked 23 days at \$1 per day for the Rev. Robert Graham (later founder and president of Arkansas College in Fayetteville). This work was probably carpenter work on Ozark Institute at Mt. Comfort. Rieff's bill was \$23, of which Graham paid \$15. In June 1851 the Rev. Robert Mecklin, Graham's successor at Mt. Comfort, paid the balance, \$8.50.

In July 1850, Rieff did carpenter work for Reding Putman of Fayetteville, amounting to \$19. Putman paid the bill in merchandise and livestock, among the credit entries being "1 steer \$3" and "1 cow \$7.85".

In 1857, Rieff built a house for James Martin, the total cost of the labor \$21.50. Martin paid the entire sum by hauling plank for Rieff at various times from Gilstrap's Mill and VanWinkle's Mill. His charge for hauling a load of plank from VanWinkle's Mill (probably the one on War Eagle) with horses was \$5; with oxen, \$6. The charge for hauling a load from Rieff's farm (at Cato Springs) to Fayetteville was \$1.

O.M.Rieff kept a number of special accounts -- covering tanning, farming on shares, coffin-making, orchards, school books, guardianships, and the like. Wm.M.Miller appears to have done Rieff's tanning on halves. Hides are listed as weighing from 20 to 72 lbs. After each entry, Rieff wrote "Recd my part".

He had a share-cropping agreement in 1852 with Samuel Smith. This account charges Smith with such things as "1 plug tobacco .38; 25 lbs salt .50; 4 yds calico .50; 1 pictorial spelling book .20; 1 vial ague pills .25; 3 boxes Moffats pills \$1.25; Jaynes sanative pills .25"; and others. Smith is credited with "756 bundles oats \$8.50" and "his part of corn in field \$15."

On Sept.8, 1857, Rieff bought a wagon for cash from George Reed. He entered all hauling with the wagon in a separate account, charging "self" \$1.50 for each trip to Fayetteville.

Rieff kept a separate tobacco account for individuals who got their "chaw tobacco" from him on credit. The charges range from 12 cents for Wooton to \$1.50 for Quinton and Martin. Incidentally, Rieff grew the tobacco himself.

An interesting page in the old account book is the one devoted to "coffins". Evidently Rieff entered only the names of those who had difficulty in paying. The cost of making a coffin in 1847 ranged from 81 cents, which Archibald Bryant paid Jan. 6 for a child's coffin, to \$3.50, which Rieff charged the estate of Lewallen Fine for "making coffin for deceased." The Fine coffin, incidentally, was paid for with pork. The Fine family had three deaths in September 1847 and Rieff made all three coffins.

O.M.Rieff taught a "subscription school" in the 1840's, the agreement appearing elsewhere in this issue of FLASHBACK. The account book contains the sales of school books, at a uniform price of 25 cents each. The schoolmaster methodically kept a record of payment, thus:

"July 20, 1846, Elizabeth Rutherford, 2 books 50 cents, to be paid in good socks at 25 cts per pair. Nov.25, Cr. by 1 pr socks 2 5 cts. March 1847, Cr. by 1 pr socks."

"Nov. 25, 1846, Mrs.Stevenson, 1 book at 25 cts. Jan.1847, Cr by 1 pr socks, 25 cts."

Among those who paid cash for their children's school books were Thos.Patton, David Carter, Jos.Carney, Nicholas Yates, Saml Alexander.

O.M.Rieff regularly reported to the County Court the accounts of several widows and minors for whom he acted as guardian. The following report for 1868 is interesting because of the use of county "scrip" instead of "greenbacks" following the War:

"1868. O.M.Rieff in acct with County Court for Anise Cardwell and children:

- Feb. - Purchased of James E. Trott 5 bb cotton yarn, 1/2 bu salt and 12 yds calico.
- Apr. - Purchased cow and calf in scrip..... \$26.66
- 2 tin buckets in scrip 2.66
- 6 bu corn in scrip..... 4.00
- 1 pair shoes in scrip..... 3.33
- May 3- Handed to Mrs.Cardwell \$4.75 in greenback equal to\$6.33 scrip.
- Nov.16 One axe \$1.25 in greenbacks
- Nov.26 1 bu salt \$2 in greenbacks"

As a produce buyer, Rieff's chief source of butter and eggs was one J. Onstott. The account covers several pages in the old book. An entry for Aug.30, 1845, says "Sold 288 dozen eggs and 45 lbs butter, amounting in all to \$15.73." In 1847 he was paying Onstott 4 cents a dozen for eggs and 6 cents a pound for butter.

As a farmer, Rieff kept detailed records. An undated page in the 1840's lists by rows the apple trees that he had set out: Winesap, Wintersweet, Russet, Grindstone Pippin, Red June, Summer Cheese, Vandever, Limber Twig, Early Striped, Hall's Seedling, Papaw, Romanite, Late Sweet, White Milam, Lady Washington.

In 1855 he entered the wheat he had sowed (in ink) and after the harvest, entered the "product" (in pencil). This particular entry reads as follows:

"The first field sowed the 1st day of Oct. Seed 1½ bu wheat. 1 acre 93 poles. Product 12 3-4 bu.

"The second field sowed between the 2nd and 12th of Oct. Seed 14 bu wheat. 10 acres 73 poles. Product 60 bu.

"The third field sowed between 12th and 17th of Oct. Seed 19½ bu wheat. 15 acres 128 poles. Product 113½ bu."

For whatever value their names may be to historians of the future, here are the Washington County residents whose debits and credits appear in the old account book of Orren Murray Rieff:

- 1842 - John Rickman, Jones Peerson
- 1843 - Aaron Hughs
- 1844 - John Rutherford, Ezekiel Venable
- 1845 - Wesley Marrs, John Peerson, J.B.McNeil, Wm.D.Reed, John Reed, Wm. Quinton, John Wooton Jr, John Kirkendoll, Parks Moseley, Joseph Venable, James Martin
- 1846 - C. Robinson, Reuben Harper, Wm.F.Robinson, Leonard Harper
- 1847 - Abby Marrs, R.C.Hattaway, J. Onstott, Wm. Willbanks, Bluford Fine, Thos. Brown, Alfred Fine, Lewallen Fine
- 1848 - Joshua Brown, W.S.Oldham, Stirman & Dickson, Samuel Ingram, Archibald Bryant
- 1849 - Wm. T. Titsworth, Wm. Willey, Jonathan Osborne
- 1850 - Reding Putman, Robert Graham, Wm. D. Reed
- 1851 S. S. Stapp, J.C.Gilliland, Daniel Wells, Wm.Ash, J.A.Campbell, Wm. Martin
- 1852 - Samuel Smith, Benj. Malone, T.M.Campbell, A.A.Reed, George Reed, J.A.Campbell, Jackson Inks, A.A.Murphy
- 1854 - Thomas Wade
- 1857 - Wm. M. Miller, James Martin
- 1858 - Forrest Woods, Joseph Carney, Thos. Stricklin
- 1859 - John Hutchinson, Jeremiah Phelen
- 1860 - John Thomas, A.M.Darter, Daniel Job, G.D.Baker

--WJL

How About Joining Us in 1952?

Our Washington County Historical Society is winding up its first year of activity. Among our accomplishments we can cite the publication of six issues of FLASHBACK, the holding of five public programs and three historic pilgrimages (Evergreen, Prairie Grove and CaneHill, Springdale), an essay contest for the public schools, and several talks on local history to patriotic societies and civic groups. Among our miscellaneous activities should be mentioned the dedication of the historical marker on the Rieff house and the tour of Fayetteville's historic spots by a Fayetteville high school senior class.

Most pleasing to your officers and directors has been the widespread interest shown in our efforts to seek out and preserve the history of Washington County -- as demonstrated by the 176 memberships we were able to obtain.

If you have read this issue of FLASHBACK, and are not a member, how about sending your check for \$2 now to Tom Feathers, secretary, 12½ E. Center St., Fayetteville. It will pay your dues for next year and will entitle you to our handsome 1952 souvenir membership card.

--W. J. Lemke