

but without ridicule. It must be remembered this was in pioneer days and in many cases practical emergencies were resorted to. Wash Jones reared a large family here, including four sons: Bill, Landy, Joe and Dick as they were usually known. Bill Jones was white headed, or his hair was light; he had a cousin by the name of Bill who had black hair and they were distinguished one from the other as white headed and black headed Bill Jones. The first cotton gin to be built on Jones creek was built and operated by Wash Jones and his four sons. It was a horse power gin and operated by Wash Jones and his four sons. It was a horse-power gin and the press screw that pressed the bales of cotton was fashioned of wood and was some 20 feet long with two long levers attached to the top of the big press screw, giving the appearance of two rafters on a building. Two horses, and if the bale was large, four horses were required to press down to its proper size and when an extra heavy bale was being pressed, it was said that all four of those big boys would get behind the levers and thus adding several horse powers to the press as all were big, stout fellows.

The capacity of this gin was three bales per day. The farmers would bring cotton to this gin for many miles. The writer well remembers having hauled cotton to this gin from Blackfork. We would load the wagon one day and before daylight the next morning, was on the road. Two big mountains were to be crossed but our heavy ox team were equal to the task. It would take about a day and a half to make a round trip usually exchanging seed and bringing a load of seed on the return, but would have to make another trip for the cotton.

Later a steam-power gin took the place of the horse-power and the first saw mill was set up by Wash Jones & Sons that was ever operated in this section. This saw mill later became the property of Joe (J. D.) Jones, who was assisted in its operation by A. E. Wiley, who was the chief sawyer and engineer. This is the same A. E. Wiley formerly mentioned as being constable on Blackfork. He later became a dentist and was known as Dr. A. E. Wiley of whom later mention may be made. J. D. Jones later moved to Waldron and was in business there for several years until his death. He was the father of General Jones, who was for a time associated with his father in business.

There was another horse-power gin lower down the valley, located on the hill or bluff near Brawley, owned by James Oliver and his son John C. Oliver, which served that section of the country to a great advantage, as new homes and farms were being built and opened up as the new country developed. This valley, like Blackfork, was without a post-office, and their mail had to come through Waldron.

FIRST POSTOFFICE AT WALDRON

It appears that the postoffice at Waldron, according to information furnished by Sam K. Leming which is confirmed by records from the postmaster General at Washington, D. C., was first established in 1838, just 100 years ago, the name being "Ponton valley." Wm. G. Featherston was first postmaster. Mr. Featherston owned a farm about one and a half miles northeast of Waldron and made an effort to establish a town out there

and in 1843 moved the office out to his farm home and changed the name to Winfield, but had nothing to do with the present Winfield now west of Waldron. Mr. Featherston failed in his efforts to build a town out on his farm and in May, 1846, the office was moved back to Waldron and given the name of Waldron. It may be stated that in this connection as it will not be referred to again that Mr. Featherston opened a small store while the office was on his farm and in connection operated a saloon. It was a log structure and the unguilded counter was fashioned by four small hewn logs placed in the cracks about four feet above the dirt floor, between the logs of the wall and floored crosswise with clapboards over which drinks were served.

The writer now turns the pages of his "Memory's Scrap Book" back to Jones creek.

THOMPSON BATES AND FAMILY

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Thompson G. Bates Sr, came from Spartanburg South Carolina to Arkansas in 1849, and settled in Scott county on Jones creek, on what then known as the Whitlock farm and later as the Wm. A. Denton farm. Obe Whitlock a brother-in-law of Mr. Bates, soon followed from South Carolina and took over the farm first settled by Mr. Bates, in a trade with him and Mr. Bates settled another farm about one mile west on the bluff, which is now known as the James Oliver farm; living here a few years, moved still farther west on what was called the head of Jones creek and settled another farm for keeps, where he reared a large family and spent the remaining years of his life. This farm is still known as the Thompson G. Bates farm and the title has never been out of the family as his youngest son, W. A. Bates of Waldron, now owns this old homestead. Mr. Bates and his first wife were the parents of nine children; four boys and five girls. This was before the Civil war and at the outbreak, three of his sons were old enough to enter the service. They were Frank, Seborn and Thompson G. Jr. For protection, Mr. Bates moved to Fort Smith with his family where he remained during the war as he was too old to enlist. After the war they all returned to this farm.

Mr. and Mrs. Bates' daughters were Francis, Jane, Louvine, and Peinie. Francis married Cooper Hays. They reared a family and spent their days on their first farm. Jane married Phillip B. Young, who was a leading citizen, serving his county as assessor for many years. Louvine married Thos. M. Young, brother to her sister's husband. He was also a noted citizen and helped to develop and establish the new country. The youngest daughter, Peinie, married Marion Lynch, another progressive citizen, who was a Texan, but the Youngs were from Spartanburg, N. C. and it was said they followed their sweethearts to Arkansas, where they became brother-in-law to brother and their wives sister-in-laws to sister.

Thompson G. Bates Sr, after the war, soon had a good farm opened up and also opened a store—the first to be opened in this valley. For many years he was active in the development of his new country and was widely known as a farmer, merchant and stock man, and served his community for years as J. P. In the latter 1860's, his first wife died and he later

married again and by this union one son was born, who is today Judge W. A. Bates, living in Waldron. He being only half-brother to the older Bates children. Frank Bates became a lawyer and also conducted a mercantile business in Waldron for several years. He also was the county's first public school examiner. A public spirited man and held himself ready to render service to his fellow man. He has a son, Frank Bates Jr., a lawyer and insurance man with office and home in Little Rock. Thompson G. Bates Jr. was the youngest of the three older brothers and of whom has already been made in connection with his brother-in-law, W. Z. Cole. However, after his 41 years of business in the same house, the business record and the genuine man he was will continue to live in the minds and memories of the thousands of friends who had known him. He was one of the heaviest cotton buyers in Western Arkansas. His son, Greg Bates, is now in the mercantile business in Waldron, where he continues to serve many of his father's old friends.

CLEM JONES

There was only one house west of Thompson Bates' place on Jones creek and this was the home of Clem Jones, his wife's name was Peggy. They had two daughters, Amanda and Michall. Amanda married Tom N. Deavers and her sister married Marlow Fannon. T. M. or Marlow Fannon came here from Texas in an early day with a bunch of ponies to trade for cattle; finding his wife here, he remained in the neighborhood for a few years when they, with the Clem Jones family, moved to Francis, Okla., where they lived until the "reaper of time" called for them. The only one left was Mr. Fannon, who a few years ago lived near Allen, Okla.

GRANNIE TUCKER

There was an elderly lady known as "Grannie" Tucker. She was a "Mid-wife" and as there were no doctors in the country, her services were sought far and near. She was dependable and very efficient. She assisted Dr. A. C. Johnson of Waldron in 1870, in waiting on the writer's mother when our baby brother was born. Dr. Elijah Leming had been called in this case but because of other engagements could not respond and Dr. Johnson was called and made a 25-mile horse-back ride to render service.

Grannie Tucker had four daughters. One of them, Emedia, married John Lynch; another married a Mr. Parnell, who lived in the Indian Territory on Haw creek, four miles west of the state line. As memory serves, she later married a Mr. Scarbrough, though in this the writer may be wrong. The other daughter was married to a Mr. Clark and she and her husband died and left two little orphan boys, John and James Clark, who were reared by an old maid sister, Becca, who was known as Aunt Becca Tucker.

The Clem Jones farm as mentioned above was sold to Isaac Ward who was a very progressive farmer and stock raiser. He lived here for many years and moved to Loving, Okla., where he operated a store. One of his sons, according to information, now is living in Heavener, Okla.

W. A. BATES

Few men in Western Arkansas are better known than Judge Bates as he is generally known. As stated above, he was the youngest son of Thompson G. Bates Sr., and a half-brother to his other nine children. Judge Bates attended the public schools on Jones creek as well as some of the private schools, and applied himself closely to his books. He married a daughter of John C. Oliver, a member of a distinguished Jones creek families. He continued on the farm and studied law. Served as school director for many years and was Justice of the Peace 14 years.

He supplied his office with a well selected library and learned his books. He was admitted to the practice of law in 1902. Served as County Judge from 1906 to 1910. Served as deputy Prosecuting Attorney from 1910 to 1913. Was a member of the Constitutional Convention of Arkansas 1917-18. Has been in the practice of law for more than 30 years. He is the father of six children. His youngest son, Wm. Bryan Bates, is preparing for the practice of law. He has his L. L. B. degree from Cumberland university and this year is in the law department of the University of Arkansas. One of his daughters, Mrs. Vanhorn, has held a position in the Auditor's office in Oklahoma City for several years. Another daughter, Miss Robinette, has a position in the Revenue department in Little Rock.

C. M. VISE

C. M. Vise came to Jones creek from South Carolina with the Youngs, Phillip and Thomas and married their sister. It is said that he too followed his South Carolina sweetheart to Arkansas. He first settled on Jones creek where he lived for many years. He was elected sheriff of Scott county and served from 1882 to 1888. Few men in Scott county were better known and had more friends than C. M. Vise. His son, Will, who now lives and operates the Midway Tourist camp, 14 miles south of Waldron, served as a peace officer for several years while at Waldron.

THE DENTONS

Among the early settlers of this valley were the Denton families; Walker Denton, came here in the 1830's and was the Sr. Denton. He was so well liked that Walker mountain was named for him and has carried his name ever since. There were several of the Dentons, some the writer cannot recall sufficiently to make honorable and intelligible mention, but do remember Tom and Wm. A. Denton. The latter became owner of the Obe Whitlock farm after the death of Mr. Whitlock, who took his own life by gunshot some time in the 1870's. There is a creek called Denton creek and a schoolhouse named for the Dentons on Jones creek.

PHIPPS FAMILY

This is another widely known family, Wm. Phipps, father of Obe Phipps and there were three daughters. One married G. C. Hutson, one married Captain Mead and the other married W. M. Moses and all reared large families.