

## CHAPTER VII

**HISTORIC HOMES OF CRAWFORD COUNTY**

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**SOME OF THE HOMES INTO WHICH FIRST  
ISSUE OF THE PRESS MUST HAVE GONE**

Let us suppose that the first issue of the Van Buren Press was delivered by a carrier and that the reader went with him on his rounds. Starting from Mr. Dunham's home which was located on the brow of College Hill. The next one would be that of his brother-in-law, Mr. A. J. Ward,

which was a one-story brick house that stood on the site occupied by the D. H. Miller home; passing down the side street and a little to the north the next house will be that occupied by Mr. C. G. Scott and his family, this, standing back from the street, a large one-story frame house. The writer does not know whether anyone was living at the Drennen home or not, as both Mr. and Mrs. Drennen were dead.

Farther up the mountain was a large brick house standing near Mr. Morrell's house; this was the home of Major and Mrs. Henry. Coming towards town along the line now covered by the Missouri Pacific tracks or on the right of way stood two brick houses known as the Clemn and Paschal houses. Mr. Clemn may have resided in his but the Pascal house was not occupied by his family.

The next home would be that of H. C. Hayman which stood under the hill below the Drennen home, then the Wilhalf house, which occupies the same location as it did then.

Passing up Washington street is a large two story frame building which at that time was the home of Thomas Walden and family. There must have been others on that street but are not remembered. Following this street on to its intersection with Fayetteville street and going up the street the first house was the George W. Knox home which is still standing. A short distance above but on the opposite side was a large brick hotel known as the Bostick house under the management of Mr. John Bostick. Passing on over to Cane Hill street and traveling towards the cemetery was the D. C. Williams home, a large frame building now occupied by his descendants.

Passing on up the street was a small house that may have been occupied by the Luce family as Mr. Lynch bought it from them in 1861 and added to it and it was known as the Lynch home; farther up the street was the Judge Walker house. Later the property of the late Mrs. D. H. Miller; turning east at the cemetery and continuing for several blocks until you arrived at the one-story brick house known as the Tom Davis home but at that time occupied by his father and mother. A little at the

rear of that was a frame house the home of George W. Davis, who would be known now as a photographer, but then took daguerreotypes. Going some distance east the Dr. Thruston home is arrived at. This stood where the King school now stands.

Coming back to the foot of Main street and on the north side, the first dwelling was at the rear of a brick building that stood on the corner of Main and Columbus street, further up the street was one known as the Adler house, rather a long building with a portico in front both upstairs and down. Just above it was a large brick residence but the occupant is not known. Crossing the street and adjoining the brick store of Henry and Cunningham is a two story frame building still standing and probably occupied at that time by Mr. George Cross' family, continuing up to the next block and on the same location as the Magnolia Oil Station, stood a one-story brick building, the home of Mr. George Austin, there were several other houses on that side of Main street but the writer does not know by whom occupied.

On Columbus, or as it is known now, Second street, south of Main street between Webster and Main streets was the Henley home, a one-story frame building with a long porch running the entire front of the building, it stood about where the Missouri Pacific freight house stands, it being demolished when the tracks were laid; passing up on to the next block below stood a square one-story brick house occupied by Mr. Charles Heard and his family, the location is now covered by the lawn of the Missouri Pacific station. Crossing Broad street and continuing down two blocks one came to a large two story weatherboarded log house. This was the home of the family of Mr. L. C. Southmayd, later known as the Ward home. Going south from Main on what is now Fourth street, one comes to the two-story brick home of Dr. Pernot, occupied by his daughter, Mrs. Matthews, until her death. On the opposite side of the street was a long one-story frame building, the entrance being from the sidewalk directly on to a stoop. This was the home of Judge Jesse Turner; across Jefferson street was the home

of John Austin, the home of Mr. J. E. Powers until his death; adjoining it on the corner of Broad street was a one-story brick house, the home of Mr. Samuel Hays. It is still standing and is the property of Mrs. A. N. Kellogg.

On Webster street between Fourth and Fifth stands a low brick house. It is not known who occupied it at the time of the first issue of the Van Buren Press but it is now owned by Mrs. S. L. Henderson. Across the street and opposite the Presbyterian church was a small brick house and the home of Mr. William Heard. It now forms part of Mr. Matt Wallace's home. Continuing on up Webster street you come to the next corner where stood a story and half frame building known then as the Stewart house; on the next corner which is Seventh and Webster, was a large two-story frame building, the home of Mr. Hinckle and his family. This has been remodeled and is now known as the Webster Hotel.

Whether Mr. Daugherty at that time lived in the house on the corner of Jefferson and South Sixth or at the lower part of Main street is not known to the writer. A large frame building stood a little back from the street on the corner of Fifth and Jefferson and occupied at that time, the writer thinks, by Mr. Levi Chapman, a steamboat captain, and his wife. Coming up Broad street the first house you came to on the right was that of Dr. James Dibrell, a low brick house which is still standing and owned by Mr. and Mrs. Dunham Scott; continuing to the next block on the corner of which stood a large double frame house which was known then as the Morrill and Marean homes, their wives being sisters. On the same block, but on the other end was Judge John Ogden's home, a large square two-story brick, set in the midst of a large yard. It is now the home of Miss Zula Ribbling. The boat houses were farther out the street but it is not known who occupied them. Neither is it known whether there were any houses on the opposite side of Broad street in 1859.

On the corner of Drennen and Pike, now South Sixth, stood a story and a half frame, part of which occupies the same location. In the same block but on the next street

was the William Whitfield home, a large two-story frame. This was burned several years ago. The Judge J. J. Green house stood on the upper opposite corner from the Whitfield home. The building was demolished only a few years ago when Mr. Frank Pape built his bungalow.

Then there was the home of Dr. Jonathan McGee which stood where the H. A. Meyer home now stands. On Logtown were the homes of Mr. Henry Wilcox, Rev. John Harrell and others. In the hollow, as it was then known, were the homes of Mrs. Emily Moore, a sister of Mr. D. C. Williams, Mr. W. F. England, Mr. R. C. Roberts and others. There were many other homes into which the first issue of the Press must have gone but their location is not known.

### ALBERT PIKE SCHOOL HOUSE

One of the most historic buildings in Crawford county is the little log school house where Albert Pike taught while living at Van Buren. At the time he taught in this historic building, it was located on the Kibler road just after you leave highway 71, east of Van Buren.

The old building is said to have been erected before 1820, on a homestead, the patent for which was filed for record, June 8, 1836, by Elizabeth Barnett. The original building, which had been standing 12 years when Albert Pike taught his school, was built of heavy logs, and which today are in a fairly good condition.

The original building was of one room with a porch running full length of the room. Many years after this building was abandoned as a school, it was used as a residence. However, a number of years ago the historic building was purchased by Mrs. Allen Henderson, of Fort Smith and moved to the northern part of the county, on highway 71. The building has been restored to its original appearance with two large rooms, a large rock chimney, porch running along one side of the building. The logs have been treated in order to preserve them.

In the front room of this building and supposedly at that time the only one, is where Albert Pike, the noted poet and Mason taught school about 1832. It is built of

hand hewn logs taken presumably from the surrounding woods. In later years the building was added to and weatherboarded.

Judge Turner said the first time he ever saw Albert Pike he was sitting in front of this building reading a newspaper. Articles of merit had been appearing in the Little Rock papers in favor of the Whig party, which aroused the members of that party to learn who was the writer and when it was learned that it was a young man near Van Buren, he was visited by Judge Turner and another prominent Whig. From that meeting a life long friendship was formed between Judge Turner and Albert Pike.

It was not known whether he made his home at the building or not but as the country was sparsely settled at that time he probably did, but those who could have told us have long since passed away.

The building is now an Albert Pike museum, which houses many Albert Pike relics. People from all over the world visit this museum. Only a few years ago John D. Rockefeller III visited this noted place, while in Arkansas in the interest of the Rockefeller Foundation.

Many noted Masons from all over the world have visited this noted building to see the Albert Pike Museum. Albert Pike has been considered the most noted Mason of all times. This little log school building will stand as a monument to this noted man here in Crawford County, for future generations to see.

## HISTORIC HOMES

The following articles were written in 1924 for the Van Buren Press-Argus. Consequently most of them have changed ownership. The Col. John Drennen home, later known as the Scott home, is still owned and occupied by descendants of the original owner.

The Knox house, is owned, but not occupied by descendants, also the Dr. Henri Pernot, later known as the Mathews home, is still owned, but not occupied by his descendants.

The following houses are not now in existence: The Bearden House, the three boat houses, the Dr. McGee house, No. 1, later known as the Commercial Hotel, the McGee house, No. 2, the Morril and Marean house, the Jesse Turner No. 1, and the Walden house.

—The Author.

### The John Drennen Home

This house is situated on an eminence in the north-western part of the city, from which a fine view of the city and river is obtained.

This house was erected the latter part of 1836 and early part of 1837 for Mr. John Drennen, one of the founders of the town, who moved his family from Columbus to Van Buren between February and May 1837.

Much of the material used in this house was brought from Cincinnati by boat, ready to be erected, and now after standing for over a hundred years is in a fairly good state of preservation.

The house is a one-story frame building which originally consisted of two large front rooms with a smaller room at the rear of each, with a wide hall through the center, later other rooms were added until at the present time there are four front rooms in a row overlooking the river with one a little farther back.

Mr. Drennen was a prominent man in this part of the state. He represented Crawford county in the Constitutional convention of 1836 and was also superintendent of the Choctaw Indians for several years.

In this hospitable old Southern home were entertain-

ed many of the notable men of the state, among them Albert Pike, who was a frequent visitor. The Indian Chiefs in all their gorgeous apparel, could be seen wending their way up the hill to the door that always stood open to welcome them.

If the walls of this old home could speak how much early history would be revealed.

The house has always remained in the family and is now (in 1924) occupied by a son and the widow and daughter of a grandson, Mr. P. D. Scott.

#### **The Knox House**

This house located on Fayetteville street is a rival of the Drennen home as to which is the older of the two buildings. Family tradition says part of the house was standing on the land when Mr. George Knox received a patent to it on the 20th of September 1838 from President Martin Van Buren.

This house which is built of logs has two large front rooms with a wide hall between, and two in the attic. At the rear of the two large rooms are two smaller rooms. This home is located on the same hill as the Drennen home but much further northeast. It is only one block from Main street, which it faces instead of Fayetteville street.

The grounds at one time were quite spacious, with a number of cedar trees, in latter years part of the land was sold for other homes; but that part containing the old homestead has always remained in the family, but for a number of years has not been occupied by any member of the family. It is now (1924) the property of a grandson, Henry C. Faber.

#### **Old Phelps Home, Later Known as the Dr. A. M. Bourland Home**

The frame building the second door from the corner of Main and North Third streets was built for Mr. Calvin Phelps about 1841. This is a two-story frame building with a hall extending the entire length of one side, with about four rooms opening into it.

It is not known how long it was occupied by Mr.



Phelps and family, but in 1861 it was occupied by Mr. George Gross and family. How long they lived there has not been learned but in 1873 the Gross family were living one mile east of Van Buren and the Phelps home was occupied by a daughter of Mr. Phelps. Later it was occupied by Dr. A. M. Bourland as a residence until his death, since which time it has been used as a rooming house. The old brick store which adjoins this building was built for Edward Cunningham for a store the latter part of the thirties and at different times has been occupied by the well known merchants, Cunningham, John Henry, D. C. Williams and others. The building has not been occupied for several years.

Adjoining the Phelps lot on the north stood a historic building of two rooms, the south one being occupied by Judge Turner and the north one by Mr. Henry Wilcox. A short time previous to the Mexican war Mr. Wilcox shared his rooms with a young lawyer, Mr. John Selden Roane, who at the beginning of war with Mexico enlisted and was made captain of the Van Buren Avengers, later was made lieutenant colonel in Yell's regiment. He was elected governor of Arkansas in 1849 and served until 1852. He was a brigadier general from Arkansas in the War Between the States, and died at Pine Bluff in 1867. As Judge Turner survived Mr. Wilcox a number of years his name is better known to the present generation but Mr. Wilcox was a very prominent lawyer in his day.

### **The John B. Ogden Home**

About the same time that the Morrill and Marean house was being erected, Judge John B. Ogden was having one built on the northwest part of the same block; he owning that half of the block.

The large brick house stands near the center of the enclosure, that is from Broad street to the alley. The original house contained two large rooms on the first floor and two on the second on the southwest side of the building with a comparatively wide hall extending the length of the building into which the rooms open. The two brick rooms at the rear are supposed to have been built

at the same time and used either for dining room and kitchen, or for servant quarters. The house was occupied by Judge Ogden and his family until his death in 1889, then his widow by his second marriage, the first Mrs. Ogden having died in 1866.

It was rented for a few years, being used at one time for a school by the Roman Catholic Sisters.

The home was sold by his children to Miss Zula Ribling who still occupies it as a home.

Judge Ogden came to Van Buren during the early forties from Tennessee and lived for awhile in a house that stood just below the Haigler filling station. He was a very prominent lawyer and for a number of years was a partner of George W. Paschal.

#### **Dr. James L. Dibrell Home**

The Dibrell home which stands on the south side of Broad street was built in 1845 or '46 for Dr. Dibrell. It is a one-story brick with two large front rooms and two smaller ones at the rear which are connected by folding doors opening into the wide hall from the two front rooms. By this method all the front of the house could be thrown together. Two smaller rooms extended along Fourth street. The land owned by Dr. Dibrell extended from Broad street to Drennen and included half the block. Where Dr. M. S. Dibrell's home now stands was a small brick building which was used by Dr. J. L. Dibrell as an office.

The home was occupied by Dr. James Dibrell and his family until some time during the War Between the States when he removed to Little Rock and remained there until after the close of the war when he and his family returned to Van Buren and occupied the old home once more until his death in 1897. It was then occupied by his daughter, Mrs. Albert Shibley for several years when it passed into the possession of Dr. Edwin Dibrell, a son. It was rented for several years when Mr. and Mrs. Dunham Scott purchased it from the heirs of Dr. Edwin Dibrell for a home. While improved it still retains the same old time appearance.

### **The Boat Houses**

The three houses situated on the south side of Broad street and known as the "Boat Houses" derived their name from being built of lumber from the cabin of the steamboat "Resolute," which was sunk about half way between Van Buren and Fort Smith, several years prior to the War Between the States. The cabin of a steamboat covered the greater part of the second deck, therefore there was sufficient lumber to build the three houses. Mr. H. C. Hayman bought this cabin and from this lumber had Mr. Mooney build these houses in 1858.

It is impossible to tell the different persons who have occupied them as they have always been for rent, with the exception of the east one which was bought a number of years ago by a Mr. Miller and later occupied by his daughter, Mrs. John Ward. The writer attended private school in the middle one for a few months taught by Miss Belle McLean. The pilot house of this same boat was bought by Mr. Charles Scott and used on his farm as a dairy.

### **The Dunham Scott House**

That Fort Smith and Van Buren have the greatest number of artistic homes of any two cities of their size in the southwest is acknowledged by practically every casual visitor to the "twin cities," while residents pridefully make the assertion with no qualifying statement.

There are new homes, old homes, and just homes. And there are new old homes. The residence of Mr. and Mrs. Dunham Scott 400 Broadway, Van Buren is one of these.

A year ago it was merely a land mark in Van Buren's history. Today it is one of the most beautifully arranged homes in either city. The transformation was planned by Mrs. Scott herself, who without the aid of an architect conferred with a contractor for reclaiming an old brick house which for nearly a century had stood on the grounds. Reclaiming is used advisedly. The house was not remodeled to any great extent. It presents practically the same appearance which it did when built in 1845 for Dr. James A. Dibrell, pioneer Van Buren resident, so far as architecture construction is concerned.

Hardwood floors have replaced the wide and worn floors of the original home. The walls and wood work have been gone over, sagging beams have been straightened and a Spanish court added, but little else has been changed.

Mrs. Scott, who is an artist, saw the possibilities in the old residence. She determined to try to make the old home into a livable lovable residence without destroying its picturesque beauty. She has succeeded beyond even her own expectations.

The quaint little portico in the front of the building was restored but not rebuilt. From this, one enters a long room with a fireplace at either end and with high ceiling adding to the spaciousness. With the aid of folding doors of amazing height in keeping with the high ceilings, the huge room can be separated into three smaller rooms. The doors are the original ones. They fold like a fan and are themselves one of the unique features of the building. Small-paned windows were left intact with their green shutters proclaiming the period of the architecture. The woodwork was not changed, merely repainted. From the huge front rooms the building goes back into two "L's" with sleeping rooms and sun parlor on one side and dining room, breakfast room and kitchen on the other—and the court between.

The court opens from the conservatory which has been built back of the big living rooms. Windows open from either L on to the conservatory presenting an artistic view straight through all the rooms, and which with the draped windows presents the appearance of the interior of an old English home.

In the court is a fountain and an aquarium of gold fish. Brick instead of flagstone are used. On one side is a "stoop" just large enough for garden chairs. The furnishings of the home are in keeping with its designing. Some of the most beautiful old furniture in the state was inherited by Mr. and Mrs. Scott and has been arranged by Mrs. Scott to fit in with the artistic plans of the new-old home.

The Scott residence until a year ago was owned by the Dibrell family. It was for thirty years the home of Dr.

and Mrs. James A. Dibrell. The late Mrs. E. R. DuVal, of this city, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Dibrell, only three years old when the family took up its residence there, was married from the homestead. The ceremony was performed at the Presbyterian church and the big wedding party returned to the residence for a reception which is remembered by the old residents of the twin cities as one of the most elaborate of early-day social history.

Two reasons prompted the purchase by Mr. and Mrs. Scott of the ancestral home. One was the desire to restore a beautiful old residence. The other was the sentiment which made Mr. Scott want to own ground originally deeded to his ancestors.

The property was first settled early in 1837, records show, by Daniel and Thomas Phillips, elderly men and bachelors, who "squatted" on the land. A few months later it was deeded to John Drennen and David Thompson and patented for them by Hugh Pierce. In 1839 it was sold by Mrs. Caroline Scott and John Drennen to the late Judge Jesse Turner, and deeded by him to Dr. Dibrell two years later.

#### **The Mr. Tom Davis Home**

Mr. Tom Davis said that his father John D. Davis went to California during the gold rush. After remaining there two years he returned to his home in Crawford county, living here until his death, which occurred Sept. 2, 1855. The next year his widow purchased what is known as the Davis home near the high school from Judge Turner, who had charge of the property. Mr. Davis, a young boy, went with his mother to look at the property before the purchase. This house which was a new one was built by Mr. Calvin Phelps, a brick mason. It is a one-story brick house containing two good size front rooms and two smaller rear ones. A square porch in front, with a door entering each room. When this house was bought it was considered away out, with only a few houses near, now it is surrounded by many. The home was later owned by Mr. Tom Davis, though at the present time (1924) Mrs. Kleeschulte lives in it.

Near this home is another old residence, a good size

double log house, weather-boarded. which was built some time prior to the war between the states. Whether it was built for Mr. George Davis, a daguerrotypist, who with his family owned and occupied it, the writer does not know, but she remembers of visiting there when quite a small child with her mother, as the families were very special friends. In 1859 or '60 Mr. George Davis removed with his family, the writer thinks, to Texas but is not certain. During the summer of 1861—while the troops were passing through here for the northern part of the state Mr. Davis came through here as leader of a band—they being in a band wagon—and spent the afternoon serenading his friends, and, to the delight of a certain little girl took her with him. How proud she felt sitting up on the seat by the side of Mr. Davis in the band wagon.

After the war he sold the place to Mrs. Eliza Howell, who made it her home for a time, later it was sold to Mr. Joe Savage and by him in turn to Mrs. T. A. Baldwin. It was rented for a number of years, then sold to Mr. Frank McKibben, who later sold it to a Mrs. Ross, now Mrs. A. L. Lemley, who occupied the house later.

From the northern part of Van Buren we come to the older part of the city on South Fourth street, where on the corner of Broad street we find a one-story brick building. Whether this house was built for Mr. Samuel Hays is not known but he and his family were living there previous to the war between the states. The architecture is that of the houses built during the forties, consisting of two large front rooms, two narrower bedrooms at the rear of the front rooms and a dining room and kitchen, with a wide hall running the entire length but to reach the dining room and kitchen you went down three steps.

Mr. Samuel Hays was a United States marshal. He married a Miss West, of Dover, Arkansas. There were two children, Susan and Samuel. One event that occurred at this house is remembered by the writer whose parents were boarding there, was a marriage ceremony of two colored people which was performed in the front hall, the bride, who was dressed in white, belonged to the Hays family and the groom to Dr. James Dibrell. After the

wedding ceremony a supper was served. The writer does not remember how many were present. This was in the latter part of 1861.

When Mr. Hays sold the property to Mr. Andy Austin and moved to his farm in the bottoms near the river is not known. Mr. Hays died in 1875 and Mrs. Hays in 1898. The son, Samuel Hays died at Eufaula, Oklahoma.

For several years Mrs. A. N. Kellogg has owned the property.

Standing on the old road to Alma on top of the hill after you pass the Scott farm and not far from Flat Rock creek is another old home. This is a large log house, the logs being dove-tailed together. There is an open hall between the front rooms, and a smaller room at the rear used as a kitchen. There are two outside rock chimneys. Across the street is an underground rock house, used either to store ice or potatoes. The latter however, was not built until comparatively recently by the late Col. W. G. B. Britt. From information gathered this house was built for or by Sutton F. Cottrell in 1836. Sutton F. Cottrell was sheriff of Crawford county for several years. Later the place was sold to Mr. Nestor Fort, father of Mrs. J. A. Kimbrough, about 1863; in 1874 it was sold at administrator's sale and was bought by Mr. J. A. Kimbrough who occupied it until 1883 when he sold it to Mr. W. G. B. Britt. Later it was the property of Mr. Dudley Bourne. It is now owned by other parties.

### **The Commercial Hotel**

The old Commercial hotel which stood on the corner of Main and South Fourth streets, was built about 1840 or 1841 for Doctor Jonathan McGee and Mr. Benjamin Moore, his brother-in-law. It was occupied by Dr. McGee as a residence but it is not known whether Mr. Moore lived there or not, Dr. McGee remaining there until some time during the latter part of the forties or early fifties when he removed to the large brick house in the eastern part of Van Buren which stood on the site of the present Meyer home.

After the removal of Dr. McGee and family it was

the home of Mr. and Mrs. Watson, parents of Col. Edmund Watson of Bentonville. After their residence there, as far as known, it was used as a store building. Mr. Samuel Collins of Morrilton purchased it about 1881 and opened a hotel. Later he added the frame part and later the brick building on the east end. Mr. Collins and his family resided there for a number of years when others took charge of the hotel.

There are very few of the early buildings remaining on Main street. The brick building on the corner of Main and North Fifth occupied by Messrs. Furry and Matlock and the room adjoining and the brick Lynch building, corner of Main and North Sixth which was built several years previous to the War Between the States. Some of the buildings in the south part of the block between South Third and South Second are old buildings having been built during the forties.

### **The Harrell Home**

The Harrell place which is one mile northwest of the court house occupies a position above the town in a suburb known as Logtown, or as it is called now City Heights. This house was built for Mr. George W. Clark, at one time editor of the Arkansas Intelligencer who occupied it for several years.

It was then purchased by the Rev. John Harrell and occupied by his family which consisted of his wife, three daughters and one son. For a number of years Mr. Harrell was a missionary among the Cherokee Indians. Sometime during the eighties Mr. Harrell and his family removed to Muskogee where I think he and his wife died.

The place was later purchased by Dr. Burson who resided there until his death and by his family for several years later, it is owned by a daughter, Mrs. Marvin Davenport.

This house stands a few hundred yards from the road, and is a frame building plastered and originally contained six rooms, the front ones larger than the rear ones and connected with heavy folding doors with large fireplaces in the front rooms; between the dining room and the



kitchen was a wide porch as was found in so many of the old time southern houses. At the front was a large square porch and there were two large brick chimneys. The house was plastered and contained large beams which were very likely hand hewn.

As was the custom in those days everything was very substantially built as shown by the old homes still standing. The modern ones will never last as long.

### **The Morrill and Morean House**

This house which stands on the south side of Broad street being on the southwest half block between what is now known as South Sixth and South Seventh streets, is a large frame, double house. It was built for Messrs. Morrill and Marean, their wives being sisters, about 1846. Each side contains a basement in which were the dining room and kitchen, with a narrow hall adjoining the partition. From this hall stairs led to the first floor and into a hall, into which doors opened from two large rooms and back of the second room is a smaller one opening into it. From this hall stairs led to a half story consisting of two rooms. Until a comparatively few years ago wide steps extended from the ground to the porch in front. During the occupancy of the home by the families of Messrs. Morrill and Marean the steps were divided by a banister extending the entire length of them. The porch was also divided by a lattice work and remaining so until during the seventies.

The only method of communication was by means of a high step placed on the top step on each side by means of which one could step over the banisters, the only other way was to go out one front door down the steps and through the gate and into the other gate and up the steps to the front door. The back yard was also divided by a fence. The two families owned the land to Drennen street. It was occupied by the two families until some time during the war between the states and was later purchased by Mr. A. N. Callahan who made the Marean part his home until his death when the house was rented for a few years and then purchased by Mr. W. L. Taylor. At the death of him and Mrs. Taylor it was sold

to Mrs. J. R. Bell who in turn sold it to Mr. Hathaway and at the present time it is known as the Hathaway Apartment.

#### **The Edward Scott House**

The one story brick house adjoining the Women's Literary Club library on Webster street was built for Mr. William Heard about 1851 or '53 to be used as the Presbyterian manse, afterwards it may have been occupied by Mr. William Heard. It is thought that Mr. Calvin Phelps did the brick work. Mr. Heard sold it to Mr. John Austin and he to Mr. Edward Scott some time during the early part of the War Between the States.

It was built on the same plan that most of the houses of that day were. It consists of four rooms with a fairly wide hall between. At the present time it is occupied by Mr. Scott's daughter Augusta and son James.

Mr. Edward Scott was a brother of Mrs. Charles Scott, and for a number of years held the position of county clerk.

#### **The Old Love House**

The house across the street from the Edward Scott house and now occupied by Mr. Matt Wallace, or rather the part bordering on South Sixth street which is of brick, was built for Mr. William Heard during the early part of 1853. Unlike most of the houses of that day it did not have a hall with a room on the other side, but the three rooms were built at the rear of each other. The first occupant was Mr. J. A. Eno, a druggist, who on his return from Connecticut with his bride occupied the house for nearly two years. Mr. William Heard and his family then occupied it until near the close of the War Between the States when he removed to Texas. Whether Mr. R. H. Love purchased it from Mr. Heard is not known by the writer but he and his family were occupying it in the fall of 1873.

Mr. Tom Wallace bought it from the Love heirs and sold it to his son Matthew W. Wallace who with his family occupy the house.

#### **The Ward Home**

The large house at the corner of Vine and Columbus or Second street, known as the old Ward home was built

for Mr. Leonard C. Southmayd in 1858 and occupied by him and his family until December 1862 when it was purchased by Mr. A. J. Ward who with his family removed there in that year from his home on what is known as the Scott hill, his home standing on the site of the D. H. Miller home.

This home is built of logs with the exception of the east rear room which is frame; the two front rooms, both upstairs and down are eighteen feet square, a hall extends between the two rear rooms; as they were smaller this was latticed in. Three rooms comprise the "L" on Second street. This house is all weather-boarded, giving it the appearance of a frame house. Mr. Ward owned the entire square and made it his home until his death in January, 1883. It was then occupied by his widow until 1887. It was rented a few years when Mrs. W. T. England became the owner who with her husband and family lived there until 1919. It remained in the possession of the family until 1925 when it was sold to Mr. Culver. After Mrs. Ward's death in 1889 other houses were erected on the block.

### **The John Austin House**

This house now owned by Mr. J. E. Powers was built for Mrs. Charles C. Heard the latter part of the forties or the early fifties.

The house which stands on the southeast corner of South Fourth and Jefferson streets is a large one story frame with two large rooms and a wide hall between and smaller ones at the rear, one on the southeast and three on the southwest side.

The sleepers under the front rooms and hall are large, hand-hewn logs together with wooden pegs. This building was sold by Mr. Heard to Mr. John Austin about 1854, who resided there until his death in 1875. His wife having died several years previous. His daughter, Hannah, with her husband, Mr. Wallace Ward and daughter Nellie occupied it until their death. It was rented for several years when it was sold by Mrs. Austin's heirs to Mr. John Powers who with his wife and nephew occupy it as a home.

### **The Samuel S. Daugherty Home**

This house which stands on the corner of South Sixth and Jefferson street was built for Mr. Samuel Daugherty in 1858 and is still occupied by his daughter, Mrs. Laura Johnson.

As so many of the buildings were at that time, it is a one story frame with two large front rooms with a wide hall between and an "L" consisting of three rooms bordering Jefferson street. Mr. Daugherty removed to this house from one occupied by him on southeast corner of Main and Second streets. Mr. Daugherty was a cabinet maker and had his shop at the lower part of Main street.

### **The D. C. Williams Home**

What is known now as the D. C. Williams home on Cane Hill street, was built for Mr. John Symes to be used as a home for himself and family in the early forties. We find that the architecture corresponds to that period, two large front rooms with a smaller one at the rear of each with a very wide hall extending the length of the two rooms. There are two rooms in the basement which have always been used as dining room and kitchen. During the early days there was a square porch at the front which was replaced by the present one.

There were several small houses in the yard for the colored people, one of which remains.

Mrs. Symes was a member of the Christian church and at this home was organized the first one of that denomination in Van Buren, some time during the latter part of the forties.

Mr. and Mrs. Symes were the maternal great grand parents of Miss Mollie Brown, Mrs. Lewis Bryan and Mr. John Brown, of this city, and Mr. W. A. Bostick. After the death of Mrs. Symes in February 1853, Mr. Symes having died several years previously, the place was sold to Mr. Alfred Wallace, who made it his home for a time. At his death in 1856, his wife having died in 1854, he left the home to a Miss Finney, later she sold it to Mr. D. C. Williams, who made some changes as shown in the building as it stands today. Mr. D. C. Williams was a prominent

merchant of Van Buren for a number of years.

During the latter part of the War Between the States, Miss Amanda Buchanan taught a private school in the basement of the home.

At the death of Mr. and Mrs. Williams it became the property of Mrs. Emma Johnson Moore and Mrs. Rosina Lock Wardell and is now the home of Messrs. Johnson and Norman Moore, grandsons.

### **The Dickson House**

This house faces North Fifth street just off of Main street and is a one story frame building with four rooms in a row; this house is of a different style of architecture from those built at the same period. A gentleman writing of Van Buren during the early forties speaks of Mr. Davidson building a grocery store on the west side of Main street not far from the foot of the hill. That building is now occupied by Messrs Furry and Matlock for their offices. The room adjoining must have been built about the same time as was the residence at the rear of these two rooms.

This home was occupied by the family until a few years previous to Mrs. Dickson's death, which occurred February, 1916. A few years before her death she removed to a home on Jefferson street near South Ninth.

Mr. Dickson served as county surveyor for a number of years, first being elected by the Whigs in 1846, serving four years. In 1852 he was elected and served two years, again in 1856 and served four years, again elected in 1874 he served until 1888. Mr. Dickson died at the age of 87. There are no descendants of this family living at Van Buren, the only descendant living in Oregon.

### **The Bearden House**

This house which is situated on the corner of Webster and South Fifth streets, just one block from the Dickson house, was built during the latter part of the forties or early fifties by a Mr. Isaac Austin as a residence for himself and wife, she being a sister of the Messrs Charles and William Heard.

The house which faces Webster street shows the style of the forties, the two large front rooms with wide hall between and the large square porch in front.

Mr. Austin removed to Yell county in 1853. He was a man of liberal education, well versed in science, history, etc. He must have held the office of justice of the peace as the writer has found several notices of marriage ceremonies performed by him.

When Mr. Bearden purchased the place now is not known as so many of the old deeds were not re-recorded after the courthouse was burned in 1877. The property remained in the Bearden family until a few years ago when it was purchased by Mr. Henry F. Meyer.

#### **The Mooney-Tom Wallace House**

Across the street from the Bearden house but facing South Fifth street is a house built by Mr. Mooney sometime between 1855 and 1860 as a residence for himself and family. In this house the rooms are much smaller and the hall narrower showing a change in the style of architecture. When the house was completed Mr. Mooney removed his family from what is now known as the hollow, where many of the earlier citizens of Van Buren located. Mr. Mooney and his family made this house their home until about 1876 when they removed to a house on the southwest corner of Jefferson and South Fifth, a two-story building that Mr. Mooney had built for a new home. After the death of Mr. and Mrs. Mooney it was rented for several years then bought by Mr. Marian Orrick and occupied as a residence until they both passed away. It is now occupied by Mr. Collins as a boarding house. The old home was purchased by Mr. Tom Wallace a number of years ago for a home and it is still occupied by him and his wife. Mr. Mooney was the father of Mrs. Sarah Hawkins.

On the same block but on the corner of Jefferson and South Fifth, sometime ago stood a large two-story house. When it was built or who built it the writer does not know, but she does know that it was standing there in 1861. It was then a boarding house kept by Mrs. Levi

Chapman, as the writer's parents and herself as a small child boarded there. There were other boarders, gentlemen.

### **The Wilcox Home**

A short distance from the top of Logtown hill stands one of the old homes of Van Buren, now owned by Mr. Segar, but originally owned by Mr. Henry Wilcox, one of the early lawyers of Van Buren. Mr. Wilcox and family came to Van Buren from Palmyra, Missouri, and soon after his arrival purchased the land on which the house stands from a Mr. Van Phule of St. Louis, Mo. The part selected for a home was wooded land and before the building could be begun the trees had to be removed. Work on the building was begun in 1845. It is a log house lathed, plastered and weatherboarded consisting of a story with an attic over the main part of the building. The house contained two large front rooms each containing a large fireplace, with a fairly wide hall between, at the rear of this hall and opening into it was a long room used for the dining room; at each end of this room was a bed room. From the dining room you entered a large porch, between that and the kitchen was a wide brick pavement, the kitchen being disconnected from the house and was a brick building consisting of two rooms, one used as the kitchen the other a bed room. At the front of the house was a large square porch, the large posts which upheld it were of cedar made from trees when the land was cleared.

The property was enclosed with a small paling fence, the palings all being made by hand.

The house did not face the road, as it was Mr. Wilcox's intention to build an addition to face the street, making that already built the ell. Much of the material was on the ground when the War Between the States began, some of which was destroyed and the remainder used for another building.

While Mr. Wilcox was having this house built he occupied a small brick one nearer the top of the hill.

Mr. Wilcox with his family occupied this home until his death which occurred July 15th, 1864. His widow and her son and two married daughters, Mesdames Thompson

and Lacy continued to reside there until each built a home when the house was rented and finally sold to Mr. Segar, who added an upper story and also changed it in some other respects, but the original building is still there but somewhat disguised.

The writer as a child and later when grown was a frequent visitor at the old Wilcox home.

### **The Doctor Pernot Home**

This house situated on the northeast corner of South Fourth and Jefferson streets was erected for Dr. Pernot about 1855, and as so many of the earlier houses were, it was built of brick, brick being easier to procure than lumber, but we find some change in the architecture from those built in the forties. The main part of the building is full two stories. While there is a hall between the two front rooms it is not as wide as those in the earlier houses. This has a three room one-story ell on Jefferson street, adjoining the northwest front room and opening into it is a smaller brick one which was used by Dr. Pernot as his office. In those days the physicians had their offices at their homes.

Before Van Buren was captured by the Federals during the War Between the States and for a short time after the Federals took possession Dr. Pernot was chief surgeon in charge of all the hospitals here. When Dr. Pernot and his family were ordered south the house had to be abandoned. During a time it was occupied by General Bowen, his wife and her parents, Dr. and Mrs. Richard Thruston, as his headquarters. After a time his regiment left Van Buren and he with it, from then on the house was occupied by refugees until the close of the war.

After peace was declared Dr. Pernot with his family returned home and occupied the house once more and did not leave it until he was carried to the City of the Dead on the hillside in January 1881. Mrs. Pernot continued to reside there with her son, H. C. Pernot and daughter and her family until her death in 1904. It is still occupied by the daughter, Mrs. J. A. Matthews, and her daughter and her family.



Dr. Henri Pernot was a native of France coming to this country when a young man. He and Mrs. Pernot came to Van Buren in 1852 from St. Genevieve, Mo. From small childhood to the present day the writer has been a frequent visitor at this home.

### **The Old Turner Home**

At one time there stood across the street from the Pernot home a house consisting of four one-story rooms in a row, it was built just off the pavement, one entered the house from the pavement, there being a small stoop at one of the doors. As far as the writer has been able to learn the house was first occupied by a Dr. Stevenson and wife. Whether built for them is not known, nor the date, but it must have been one of the early houses of Van Buren. The next occupant was Mrs. T. J. Johnson, afterwards Mrs. D. C. Williams, grandmother of Messrs. Johnson and Norman Moore, after which Judge Jesse Turner Sr., and his wife and son Jesse Turner, Jr., resided there until he built the present Turner home which stands farther back in the lot, now owned by Dave Partain.

### **The Walden House**

This house, which is situated on Washington street between Fourth and Third streets, has been known by so many names that it can hardly be designated by any special one.

This house is a large, two-story frame and was built during the fifties, just at what time is not known. It is thought to have been built by a Mr. Thomas Walden, and from the appearance of the building it must have been erected for a hotel or boarding house. One person told the writer that it was built with material from the old Union church when it was torn down; another one said it was there when they attended school at the old church.

Previous to the War Between the States it was the stage stand for the stages running between Little Rock and Fort Smith and the Butterfield stages between Springfield, Missouri, and south, and of course accommodating the travelers passing through Van Buren.

The family moved to Texas during the latter part of the War Between the States. Who the next occupant was the writer does not know, but in the seventies it was purchased by Captain and Mrs. Levi Chapman, who occupied it, and kept boarders. There many of the young men of the town boarded. Mr. Chapman had kept boarders for a number of years at different places in Van Buren. Captain Chapman was a steamboat captain and for a number of years commanded boats that plied on the Arkansas and Mississippi rivers. After their death the house was rented and then sold and now it is known as the Tourist hotel, but it is not what it once was.

### **The Walker Or Thayer Home**

This home until some time during the War Between the States was known as the Judge William Walker home. Like the D. C. Williams home the date of erection is not known. They are both located on Cane Hill street, but from the style one would judge sometime during the forties, as it has the two large front rooms and wide hall, the two front rooms being log plastered and weather-boarded.

The place was given to Mrs. Walker by her mother, Mrs. Wharton Rector. It is not known whether or not Judge and Mrs. Walker were living there in 1857, if not earlier. Judge Walker enlarged the house by adding rooms. It remained their home until the close of the war when they removed to a place a short distance from the Van Buren road between here and Fort Smith.

Judge William Walker was one of the prominent lawyers of Van Buren and this part of the state; his office was a small brick building on Water street between Main and Washington streets.

Some of this information was obtained from Miss Margaret Walker, a daughter.

Whether a Mrs. Wright was the next owner or not is not known but in 1876 Mr. and Mrs. Thayer rented the house and in 1879 bought it from a Mrs. Wright. Mr. and Mrs. Thayer made it their home until they passed away, Mrs. Thayer, the last day of 1899, but it was retained by their sons, Messrs. John and George Thayer until a few

years ago, when Mr. George Thayer passed away and Mr. John Thayer removed to his niece's, Mrs. D. H. Miller. For a number of years the Messrs. Thayer were the editors and publishers of the Van Buren Argus.

Mrs. D. H. Miller, a granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thayer and niece of the Messrs. Thayer, then became the owner. While she modernized it to a certain extent the old time architecture was retained. It is now the property of Mrs. Miller's daughter, Mrs. Florence Tibbs, but at the present time it is occupied as a home by Mr. and Mrs. John Brown.

### Howell House

The Howell House stands no longer in Alma. Its founder and proprietor for more than a quarter century is gone. But Sarah E. Howell, and her hospitality and good food, linger on in the memory of many people, who from far and wide came in contact with her and her home, and will never forget.

The house, that was once the haven of rest for every traveling man who packed a grip in western Arkansas, stood on a lot near the Methodist church, and now is owned by O. V. Hall.

The story of the Howell House is a story of a woman, who provided something more than "bed and board" in the way of accommodations for the traveling man, and in so doing established a business that attracted visitors not only from Alma and Fort Smith, but from all over the state.

After the War Between the States, Mrs. Howell, who had gone to Texas during the War, returned with her husband, Amasa E. Howell, who fought in the Confederate Army. They established their home near Alma. In 1881, after the death of her husband, Mrs. Howell moved to Alma and resided at the hotel operated by her brother, R. W. Miles. Here she became manager of the hotel, and under her guidance, the place became a mecca of all traveling salesmen in the territory.

The hotel was located on Main street, at the corner of the block where the Alma Cash Store now stands. All went well until on the night of December 25, 1885, when

the town's male population gathered in a nearby saloon to celebrate Christmas. The evening was cold, and the crowd jubilant with the spirits that had flowed freely during the day. A larger fire was needed, so boxes were broken into bits and thrown into the stove. Before morning, the saloon, not only had been turned into ashes, but four stores, and the hotel in the same block were burned to the ground.

Mrs. Howell resided with friends for a short time. Early in 1886, she purchased a five room house, located near the Methodist church, where she had planned to live with her daughter, who is now Mrs. E. I. Bailey and not be burdened with the cares of operating a boarding house. However, upon the first train coming into town after Mrs. Howell had located in her new house, was a traveling salesman, who insisted that she give him lodging and food. Other trains arrived, and others demanded that they be taken in.

And so the little house grew. A wing was added here, another one there, and finally a two-story front building was tacked on, and then was realized the Howell House, a spacious and comfortable structure of fourteen rooms. Traveling salesmen were not her only customers. Alma people patronized the Howell House. People came from Van Buren regularly. On Sunday the Van Buren ferry transported Fort Smith people across to the railroad at Van Buren for a trip to Alma and a treat of good food and hospitality at the Howell House.

Mrs. Howell remained in charge and operated the House, which she never permitted to be called a hotel, until in Dec., 1917, when she closed it because adequate servants and help could not be employed during World War I.