

CHAPTER XXIV

LEGENDS

1. Van Buren Bluff
2. Counterfeiters Cave
3. Spanish Gold
4. Mysterious Grave

Van Buren Bluff

Years ago, Mary Booker, of Van Buren, wrote a newspaper story of Lelehya, an Indian Princess, who fled from enemies and was drowned in Lee's Creek, in the valley below Mount Vista on the Skyline or Sherwood Drive, near Van Buren.

Many are the legends and traditions connected with the hill around Van Buren—some dating back to Indian times when a powerful tribe led by a valiant chieftan, made beautiful Mount Vista their hunting ground.

It is said that the bluff now known as Lee's Creek Point, was formed when an Indian Princess, fleeing from the warriors of enemy tribes, called upon the Great Spirit for safety. He, loving the maid for her kindness and mercy, opened up a great chasm, across which the pursuing army could not follow, and they plunged headlong into an underground river, and were all drowned. This chasm is supposed to be the valley below the bluffs.

While the bewildered braves were descending the newly formed abyss, Lelehya disappeared into the depths of a nearby creek and the current bore her downstream into the river. This creek, now named Lee's Creek, was forever held sacred and worshipped by her tribe, and each year fruit and grain were cast into the water as sacrifices to the Great Spirit; for, although Lelehya at last met her death, it was considered by the Indians nobler to be drowned than to die by the hand of the enemy.

Acres of arrowheads and various other remnants of Indian life found among the rocks and ledges, testify to the fact that many battles were waged there in the past.

Counterfeiters Cave

About one and one-half miles from our little city, Van Buren, fully five hundred feet above the level of the Arkansas river, in the face of Lee's Creek bluff, there is a cave. Having been the home of counterfeiters during the War between the States or Civil War, it is called "Counterfeiters Cave."

You reach the cave from the top of the mountain by a descent through a crevice in the rock and a passage of fifteen or twenty feet on a ledge about twelve or fifteen inches wide which leads to the mouth. The roof of the cave at its mouth is about ten feet high.

About forty or fifty feet into the cave is of easy access, but further you cannot go without difficulty, as the passage is very narrow. It is said after you go through this narrow passage you reach a large opening or room, where the counterfeiters made the spurious coins.

From the top of the cave can be seen the mouth of Lee's Creek which empties into the Arkansas river. The power-house, where the water is pumped from Lee's Creek and brought in large iron pipes to a reservoir north of Van Buren and used for city purposes, Fort Smith with her large bridges connecting her with the Indian Territory, and many other points of interest may be seen from this bluff.

In fact as far as the eye can reach north, south, or west, can be had a beautiful view of the landscape and in sight several hundred feet is the Missouri Pacific railway track which winds its way around the mountain.

Spanish Gold

Optimistic hillmen are still continuing their search for Spanish treasures along big Mulberry Creek. Legend has it that Spanish adventurers buried nine boat loads of gold somewhere on Big Mulberry Creek.

Mysterious Grave

Three plain brown slabs of rock, unrevealing as the earth, mark a mysterious grave in Fairview cemetery. They were there when the first founder of Van Buren

landed from a steamboat, say those who pass around the changing legend. Some persons can remember when there were four stones, but the one which lay across the top has disappeared, and only the two stuck in the earth at the sides of the grave, and the headstone, roughly hewn into a rounded shape, with a square base, remain. No mark is to be seen, except for a double cross on the back side of the headstone, which some say is an old Indian ideograph. Another interpretation is that it is a Masonic cross, but how or why it came there is left unsolved.

Other persons in Van Buren who pride themselves on their knowledge of the lore of the town, say that this grave holds the bones of one of De Soto's men. They explain that the grave was hastily made, and, being shallow, that the stones were erected for protection.

Others are convinced that there is treasure beneath these rocks, and about seven years ago the sexton found that a nearby grave had been tampered with, and he said at that time that he believed the prowlers had mistaken it for the unknown grave, and had wanted to uncover the treasure.

Other mysteries are associated with this old cemetery, whose fir trees cast their shadows over the founders of Van Buren, among whom are Franklin D. Thompson, son of David Thompson, and Laurette C. Thompson, wife of Franklin D., who was born in Winchester, Va., and died in Columbus, Crawford County, in 1837, one year after her husband's death. According to the tale handed down to the present generation, the Thompson and the Clemm families bought the first tracts of land in Van Buren. Eliza Clemm was buried here in 1837.

As one enters the cemetery a little to the left, is a large cement vault, without mark or ornament of any kind. Once it is said, someone broke through the vault, but failed to find anything but a few old coffin handles.

Close to the unmarked vault lies the family plot of Benjamin Hinkle, 1796-1849, and here are ten graves, whose elaborate tombstones would forever conceal the fact that Benjamin and his sons and daughters were of

thrifty habits. But Van Buren's anthologists have not forgotten.

A large tombstone erected to Jesse Turner, "a native of Orange county, N. C., but, during and ever since the territorial days, a resident of Arkansas," stands on a little plot of ground where the pioneer is buried between the bodies of his first and second wife. Violet P. Turner, born in Alleghany county, Penna, 1817-1843, it is said was the wife of his heart, and Rebecca Allen, an Englishwoman and his second wife, was the wife of intellect. Whatever the story, there is a broken column, which stands as it was originally made, marking the grave of his first wife, and the grave of Rebecca Allen Turner is unmarked.

The grass grows tall in the eastern part of Fairview cemetery. It was here, years ago, that a spring constantly flowed, and here the negroes took their clothes to wash. Now it is covered with grass-grown graves and modest stones. On the brow of the hill is the field where almost a hundred soldiers were buried in the civil war. The graves were originally marked by the numbers which were the men's only identification, but now even these signs are gone. In another part of the cemetery is a grave whose tombstone bears the name of James Phillips, revolutionary soldier, who died in 1831.

EARLY SETTLERS

(A Continuation of Chapter VI. See Page 66)

WILLIAM STEWARD

John Steward furnished the writer the following sketch of his father, William Steward, one of the pioneers of Crawford county and a soldier of the War of 1812.

William Steward, son of Henry Steward who was a native of Scotland, was born in the state of Connecticut, July 4, 1789. When a small boy his parents moved to Oswego, New York, where he grew to manhood.

In 1812 when the war between Great Britain and America was declared he volunteered in the American service and served through that war under General Scott. He was wounded at the Battle of Chipawa and was in Fort Erie when it was blown up.

After returning from the War he was married in 1817 to Phoebe Dean who bore him three sons, Harvey, Alexander and Darwin. In 1824 his wife died. In 1826 he removed to Fountain county, Indiana and located near Terre Haute. In 1832 he married Malissa Dickinson, who bore him nine children: Noah, son who died in infancy; Phoebe, John, Samuel, William, Mary, Henry, and Fannie. Phoebe married a Mr. Couch and Mary a Mr. Orme.

In the early fall of 1836 he moved with ox-teams from Terre Haute, Indiana to Van Buren, Arkansas. During the winter of 1836 he bought from the government the land upon which Lancaster is now situated. He moved to this land in the spring of 1837 and built a dwelling house for his family. He also cleared the land for a farm and then built a grist mill and saw mill, which he operated by water power. He continued this work until his death.

In 1846 when war was declared against Mexico, two of his sons, Alexander and Darwin, volunteered in the First Arkansas Regiment, commanded by Colonel Yell. Alexander was 2nd Lt. of the Van Buren Avengers and was enrolled June 26, 1846 at Van Buren. Darwin held the 3rd corporal in the same company and was enrolled June 26, 1846 at Van Buren. He was killed at the battle of Buena Vista.

HENRY BUSHMIAER

Henry Bushmiaer was born in Prussia in 1793 and served in the Prussian army under Blucher at the Battle of Waterloo as a 1st Lieutenant and was awarded a sword and an iron cross for distinguished service. He saw Napoleon after his capture.

He left Prussia during the political disturbance of 1847 and 1848, because he believed in popular government and was not in sympathy with the movement at that time to make one man the ruler of the German Empire, and came to the United States. He arrived in Van Buren in the spring of 1848. He first settled in what is now the Bond Special community, later moving to a farm two miles south of Alma, which he had purchased.

Mr. Bushmiaer married Margaret Schuky in Prussia. Five children were born to this union. There were three girls and two boys in this family. Four children were born in Prussia before the family came to America. One son was born on the farm south of Alma.

Mr. Bushmiaer died in 1849. His wife died in 1884. They were buried in the family lot on the Bushmiaer farm. Descendants of Mr. Bushmiaer, today, own this farm.

JUSTIN FELIX BENEUX

Justin Felix Beneux was born in 1806 in the little village of Sainte Marie in France. He came to the United States in 1831. After arriving in New York, he went from there to Kentucky, where he loaded flat boats with goods to trade with the Indians, and set his face toward the Western Territory.

In 1832, Beneux docked at Crawford Old Court House, across the Arkansas river from what is now the town of Mulberry. He had a keen eye to business as a merchant and had been used to prompt annual settlements on the first day of the new year. At the close of the first year's business in his store, which he had established at Crawford Old Court House, he prepared to receive his debtors, their coins, and pelts of wild animals. He waited all day long New Year's day and they came not; whereupon he sought a learned lawyer, one Jessie Turner, and poured out his indignation in mixed French-English, say-

ing his debtors were "no Puntu-al."

So it is a fact that the first attachment case before the Crawford County Court was one of his cases of collection.

About three years after this Mr. Beneux had bargained through Judge Turner, and became the owner of the Charles C. Whitson plantation up Big Mulberry, and thus became the owner of the Whitson home, store, and many acres. This plantation was about seven miles up Big Mulberry Creek from the Arkansas river. The county seat had been moved from Crawford Old Court House to Whitson's store, only a short time before Mr. Beneux purchased the plantation. A man by the name of John Lasater wanted the Courthouse in his store which was located farther up the creek. Lasater and Whitson quarreled about the location, and Whitson was shot by Lasater. One of the Whitson sons sought revenge, and later killed Lasater. Young Whitson escaped from the community.

The first steam mill ever brought to Crawford County was bought by Beneux in Ohio and was brought down by boat to the landing near the Old Crawford County Court House, from where it was hauled in ox wagon to the Beneux plantation. It cost several thousand dollars. People came from many sections to see the mill, and to get wheat and corn ground, to buy sawed lumber.

The court house was moved to Crittenden and later to Van Buren. Beneux was a prosperous business man when the courthouse was moved from Whitson town so he remained at this location. He owned forty slaves. The days passed by happily for this family, until the War Between the States, when several of the Beneux boys were called out to fight. Two of the soldier sons, Horace and Virgil, were killed in cold blood, while on a visit back home. They were killed by "Bushwhackers." His mill was burned, and much of his property destroyed. The family went south for safety until the war was over. Before leaving they hid the bulk of their money in a martin gourd in the yard. Upon their return after the war the money had not been found by Federal Troops and was recovered by the family.

Mr. Beneux died in 1870 and was buried in the family burying ground on the plantation.

The old Beneux plantation home was one of interest, and has been visited by many persons. There were five fireplaces that graced the end walls of this noted house.

Only a few years ago there was a copper bell, which was a relic of the anti-bellum days, stored away in one of the large upstairs rooms. This bell when in use before the war, was mounted on a frame, which stood in the yard, and the bell was connected to Mr. Beneux's bedroom by a long cord. In the mornings he rang this bell to awaken his slaves without having to get up himself.

JOSIAH FOSTER

Among the early settlers of Crawford County, was Josiah Foster, better known as "Si" Foster.

Josiah Foster, his wife and several of their children came in 1835 from Howard County, Missouri, and settled on land which he bought from Isaiah Vinsant and Frederick Hartgraves. Later he added other lands until at the beginning of the War Between the States he owned many slaves and was one of the largest land owners in the County.

Mr. Foster had a large family by his first wife who was named Nancy Adams and whom he had married in Missouri. His second wife by whom he also had a number of children was Julia Stewart.

Mr. Foster came to his death by drowning in Lee's Creek on Dec. 22, 1870. He and with his wives, also several of his children, and other descendants are buried in the Foster family burying ground on land belonging to the original homestead about 4½ miles north of Van Buren.

One of Mr. Foster's grandsons also named Josiah Foster was a United States Marshal for some time. Later he established a mercantile business and bakery in Van Buren. In the early 1880's this Josiah Foster moved to Fort Smith and entered the wholesale grocery business under the name of "J. Foster & Co." which was continued after Mr. Foster's death in 1912, by his son also named Josiah Foster.

Upon the death of the son, Josiah in 1946, the business is still conducted under the same name by the two sons of Mr. Foster, Dozier Josiah Foster, and Herbert Presley Foster, who are the great great grandsons of Josiah (Si) Foster who came to Crawford County from Missouri in 1835.

ALEXANDER GOODING

Alexander Gooding was born in Cooke County, Tennessee, July 4, 1822. He came to Van Buren in 1844, and with the exception of the time he spent in the Confederate Army he continued to reside in Crawford County. In his early manhood he purchased a large farm at Dripping Springs where he resided for many years. He belonged to the Masonic Lodge and the Presbyterian Church.

At the time of his death, he was residing with his daughter, Mrs. R. J. Miller in Van Buren. He was buried in the Drippings Springs Cemetery, where his wife was buried several years before.

ARNOLD O'BRYAN

Arnold O'Bryan was born in Cheatam County, North Carolina, February 7, 1807. His father was a soldier of the War of 1812, and a brother-in-law of Daniel Boone. His father died in 1828, and Arnold O'Bryan came to Arkansas that year. In 1834, he was commissioned as Captain in the Crawford County regiment of Militia of the Territory of Arkansas. The faded piece of parchment issued to him at that time reads as follows:

"The Governor of the State of Arkansas. To all who shall see these presents Greetings:

"Know ye. That whereas Arnold O'Bryan has been elected Captain in the Crawford County Regiment, I do hereby commission him a Captain in said regiment in the militia service of the Territory of Arkansas. He is therefore carefully and diligently to discharge the duties of Captain, by doing and performing all manner of things thereunto belonging, and I do strictly charge and require all officers and soldiers under his command to be obedient to his orders as Captain, and he is to observe and follow

such orders and directions from time to time as he shall receive from me or the future Governor of the Territory of Arkansas, or the General or other superior offices set over him. In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the Territory to be fixed at Little Rock this 14th day of August, 1834, in the 59th year of the Independence of the United States.

John Pope, Governor

Wm. S. Fulton, Sec'y of the Territory of Arkansas."

Mr. O'Bryan was married July 6, 1837 to Miss Elizabeth Shepherd. He first settled upon a farm near Rudy now known as the John O'Bryan place and where he lived seven years, then moving to Texas, but returned to Crawford County in 1853, and settled near Van Buren.

Mr. O'Bryan was a Jeffersonian Democrat, casting his first vote for Andrew Jackson, and last vote for Benjamin Harrison. When the War Between the States was declared, although a slave owner, he took his stand on the side of the Union and remained loyal to the flag of his country.

Mr. O'Bryan died at his home in Logtown, one mile north of Van Buren on a Saturday evening in April, 1896.

DIBRELL FAMILY

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Any history of Crawford county and its citizens would not be complete without some mention of that early pioneer doctor and surgeon, James Anthony Dibrell, who was the first of that noble calling in the county or this section of the state.

Dr. Dibrell was born at Nashville, Tenn., August 15, 1817 being the oldest son of Edwin Dibrell and Martha Shrewsbury Dibrell, and those who know the family well will recall two of his sons bore the initial of his paternal grandparents. One of these sons, Dr. M. S. Dibrell, still survives and has consistently followed the pathway trod by his distinguished father, that of the faithful general practitioner instead of accepting any of the many offers of special work tendered to him from many sources. Such

self effacing, plain doctors are the backbone of the medical profession today.

Young James A. Dibrell received his early education under tutors and in private schools at Nashville, Tenn., and Richmond, Va., and upon deciding to study medicine became a student at the University of Pennsylvania, the only school of medicine we know of which has operated continuously since its inception, this school having lost only a few months while the British troops occupied Philadelphia during the war of the Revolution. His descendants remember well the accounts of his rides from Nashville to Philadelphia and return on horseback which our young moderns could hardly appreciate when they make the trip in the same number of hours that required days of him.

He graduated from the University of Pennsylvania in 1840 and returned to the family home in Nashville for a final visit before starting out on a career of his own.

The young doctor was given a horse and \$100 and then started out to seek a location and after a leisurely journey to Memphis crossed the Mississippi and arrived at Little Rock. Here he met two of the pioneers of Northwest Arkansas, Messers Thompson and Drennen whose descendants still survive, and who have been prominent contributors to the welfare of Crawford county.

These gentlemen assured the young doctor that there was a fine opening at Van Buren for a physician and he accepted their invitation to take up his residence in Van Buren and returned with them by boat from Little Rock.

It occurs to the writer that perhaps romance flourished in those days and the young doctor knew that a young lady whose family had been neighbors in childhood days near Nashville was now living at Van Buren. Whether he knew it or not at the time, the facts are that he met this young lady whom he married.

This lady was Miss Ann Eliza Pryor who like her husband was a native of Tennessee had come west some years previous. One of her sisters had married into the Greene family and was the mother of Mrs. Bessie Quesen-

bury of Van Buren.

Of the marriage of James Anthony Dibrell and Ann Eliza Pryor, the children who reached maturity were Angela Medora, who married Dr. E. R. Duvall of Fort Smith and who was in his own right a distinguished physician and surgeon.

Next came James Anthony Jr. who later was to distinguish himself in the field of medicine and surgery at Little Rock who married Lallee Reardon of Little Rock and two sons both prominent doctors, survive him, these being John R. Dibrell and James A. Dibrell.

The next child was Ann Eliza, who later became Mrs. Geo. T. Sparks of Fort Smith and whose only surviving children are James D. Sparks of Hillcrest, Fort Smith and Mrs. Henry C. Morrison of St. Louis, Mo.

Shortly after the birth of Ann Eliza, later known as "Missie" Dibrell the wife died and after some 18 months as a widower Dr. Dibrell married a sister of his first wife this lady being Miss Emily Pryor.

Of this marriage the first child was Sarah Susan, now the widow of the late Dr. Geo. H. Hynes, who as a young physician practiced with her father in Van Buren but who a few months after the marriage established a home and practice for himself in Fort Smith, where he lived for 40 years, until accidentally killed in 1929. The survivors of this marriage are Dibrell Pryor Hynes of Evanston, Ill., and Mary R. Hynes of Fort Smith.

The next child of this marriage was Edwin Richard Dibrell, who was like his elder brother, destined to become one of the leading doctors of the state, and who made his home in Little Rock. He was married to Miss Estelle Tucker, who survives him and to whom four children were born, they being, Sterling, Edwin, Frank and Estelle.

Then came Irene Griffith, the youngest daughter who married Albert Boyd Shibley, of Van Buren, a member of one of the pioneer families of the county. To them came the following children, James A. Shibley, Emily Pryor Shibley, now Mrs. E. C. Craddock, Minerva Boyd Shibley, and "Mitt" Shibley all of whom are residents of Fort

Smith, and Sue Edna Shibley, who became Mrs. J. H. Swan of Okmulgee, Okla., and who passed on only a few years ago.

The last child is perhaps the one best known and loved in this community, he being, Dr. Matt (M. S.) Dibrell of Van Buren, who has done more to keep alive the family tradition than any other member of the family. He married Miss Eula Ione Pierce of Van Buren and their two children, Artilla Pryor Dibrell and James Pierce Dibrell are still residents of Van Buren.

Soon after his first marriage young Dr. Dibrell built his home in Van Buren, of brick, made by hand and baked in the sun in the immediate neighborhood, and most of the lumber for the joists, rafters, studding, etc., was hand hewn from nearby oak forests. This house erected about 1844 still stands on Broadway street, being owned and occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Dunham Scott, who are descendants of the founder of this paper and whose ancestor mentioned earlier was one of those who invited the young Dr. Dibrell to come to Van Buren.

The furnishings for the new home like most everything else in those days came up to the river by steamer from Memphis or New Orleans.

The need for a doctor in the vast, sparsely settled section was great and many were the calls that meant 50 to 100 miles on a horse over trails known only to a few and many were the dangerous trips made up in Crawford, Franklin and Washington counties in Arkansas and Sequoyah, Adair and LeFlore counties in Oklahoma. Not only were the trips trying in themselves but many other things made the life of the pioneer physician one of hardship. Can you imagine a 1934 graduate out on a horse in the middle of the night and when the horse balked and refused to go further, taking off his saddle and waiting until morning, revealed him off the trail and on the edge of a cliff where a few steps further would have meant death to both horse and rider. Or to be halted by a voice from behind a rifle protruding from a rail fence and made to identify himself. Then to receive the word, "allright Doc, we don't want you," this being one of the

parties to a district feud who were waiting for the other crowd to come along.

Dr. Dibrell knew well all the pioneers of the western section of the state and was a personal friend of General Albert Pike, whose name and exploits are well known to all those who have studied Arkansas history.

He acted as surgeon to Pike in his duel with Capt. Roane which took place on the sand bar opposite Fort Smith, and with Dr. Burton who was surgeon for Pike's opponent, acted as mediator and settled the matter after shots had been fired without either party having been hit. This was probably the last duel fought in this state under the old "Code of Honour."

Dr. Dibrell was with Dr. Pollard of Fayetteville, the only graduate physician in this section outside of Fort Smith for many years and the two covered the territory now daily requiring the services of 200 or more physicians.

During the Civil War he was in charge of the hospital at Van Buren, treating both confederates and union wounded, and took a boat load of them to Little Rock where he established a larger hospital in the present arsenal and remained there until the close of the war, after which he returned to Van Buren to take up his work among his own people largely all of whom had been made poor by the war.

The succeeding years brought him fame in his profession, honor as a man, as a citizen and as a Christian gentleman, but never wealth.

In his religious life he was a Presbyterian of the old school and well his descendants remember his unswerving faith and his insistence that his household follow his lead in matters of church and religion.

Each of his sons (and one grandson) served his time as janitor and bell ringer of the church without pay until one of the younger came along to succeed to the job.

His long and honorable career ended on Feb. 23, 1897 at the old home in his 80th year, and as evidence of the esteem in which he was held the writer quotes from the Worshipful Master of his Masonic lodge under whose

auspices he was buried:

"I have called you to pay the last tribute of our esteem to an honored citizen, a devoted mason, a devout Christian and when we say that he shown with a lustre that marked his consequence among men, that as a citizen he was widely and well known, that he proudly unfurled the Christian banner in early life and that he wore the badge of a Mason with credit to himself and honor to the institution."

This is a fitting tribute to one who for nearly sixty years practiced his profession in one community, zealous in the performance of his professional duties, and who died practically in the harness a martyr to the profession to which he had devoted three score years.

This sketch of his life hurriedly written by one of his descendants is submitted in the hope that some of the later generation who take the time to read it may pause for a moment and think of the type of man this one was and others like him who gave up the comforts of old homes and associations and came to a new raw country to wrestle from it a living and to establish for their children's children a civilization where life could be peaceful, comfortable and happy.

HON. DAVID HERBERT CREEKMORE

David Herbert Creekmore, the son of Ballantine and Mary (Brown) Creekmore, was born in Abingdon, Virginia in 1817. They moved to Kentucky in 1819.

After he had grown to manhood, they moved to Tennessee, Scott County. He attended formal school only three months, but having a desire for an education, often studied by the fireside at night. He was well informed.

Mr. Creekmore married Elizabeth Meadows in Whitney County, Kentucky. She died in Crawford County, Arkansas, in 1866. They had one daughter and five sons.

In 1867, he married Hannah Edwards, a native of Alabama, in Crawford County. They had five children.

During the War Between the States, he enlisted in the Union Army.

In 1866, he came to Crawford County. In 1867, he

settled on a farm between Alma and Dean Springs, later purchasing it.

He came to Crawford County a poor man, but later owned 240 acres of good land, 140 of which were well cultivated.

He took the census of Crawford County in 1870, and in 1880, he took the census of Alma and Richland townships.

In 1873, he served with two other men who constituted the County court, and in 1873, after the Constitution was changed, was elected county and probate judge, serving 2 years.

In 1878, he represented the county in the Lower House of the Legislature one term.

Although a self-made man, he filled his various offices with great credit.

He was a Republican, and a G. A. R. He and his wife belonged to the Missionary Baptist Church.

His son, Renfroe, married Emily Lynch, in 1849. Another son, Randolph married Mary Chastain. Their daughter is Mrs. Adelia Haglin.

SAMUEL SWEARINGEN

Samuel Swearingen, son of John and Matilda Swearingen, natives of Maryland was born at Booneville, Missouri, April 2nd, 1818. In 1839, he came with his parents to Crawford County, Arkansas settling on Lee's Creek. He was a blacksmith by trade, having served an apprenticeship as such at Booneville. He was married to Sallie N. Cox, May 3, 1842. In the year 1850, while the excitement over the discovery of gold in California was running high, Swearingen, in company with twenty-five or thirty other men made the trip by mule team to the territory, leaving Cane Hill, May 3rd, arriving at their destination sometime the following November. Coming home he came by sailboat to the Isthmus, then took passage on a steamer to New Orleans, thence by boat to Van Buren, arriving here in January, 1852.

Soon after his return home he purchased the farm now owned by the heirs of R. E. Swearingen, removing

his family to that place, February 28, 1852.

In the campaign of 1860, he opposed secession, but when the state seceded he became an ardent supporter of the Southern Cause. In October, 1863, he enlisted in the regiment of Col. Wm. Brooks. Three weeks later he was captured by the Federals at Huntsville, Madison County, Arkansas, while engaged in shoeing horses for the soldiers. He was taken to Fayetteville where he was kept for a short time, when he was removed to Saint Louis, thence to Rock Island, Illinois, where he remained until January, 1865, when he was taken on a transport to New Orleans where he was exchanged. His company disbanded at some place in Texas. He arrived home June 9, 1865. Soon after coming home he fitted up a shop which he opened for the blacksmithing business and continued at this work until April, 1871, when owing to failing health he had to quit work. On Sept. 6, of the same year he went to Cane Hill in Washington County, hoping that the change of localities would be beneficial to his health. He died there on the eighteenth of the same month.