

List of Cities and Towns for Cross County, Arkansas

Aberdeen:

Bay Village: From Birdeye, go north on AR 163 to Bay Village.

Belknap:

Birdeye:

Budsmith:

Central:

Cherry Valley: Cherry Valley Memories-Cross Co.Historical Society- Vol.6- No.2-Spring 2011 by Mary Lee Mann: It is a small town of approximately 500 citizens located on Highway One approximately halfway between Wynne and Harrisburg. In the early 1930's it was considered a rowdy little town, due to the local whiskey store, pool hall and sale barn, where regular livestock auctions were held every Friday. Many of the gentlemen who attended these sales also visited the other two establishments, as well as local beer halls and restaurants, making for a lively time. Z. N. Halk owned a cotton gin, along with a general merchandise establishment. There were several other stores, one of the larger ones being the Misner Store and one of the older ones owned and operated by John Stark and his wife Florence. There was also a bank, post office and drug store. There were two beauty shops, Elizabeth's (Elizabeth Mann Stark) and Misner's, located in their store. There was a barber shop owned and operated by Pode Curtner, and in later years a second one run by Frank Fryar. The War (WWII) brought with it a need for more farm products, especially rice and soy beans. Several families moved into the area to farm, including the Leonard Harmons, Wilhite Brothers (Burl and Cozie), Pauscherts, and Woods along with others. After the war an improved highway (Hwy. One) from Wynne to Jonesboro was constructed, paving the former gravel road and straightening the "kinks." Following World War II many other changes occurred, including another and more modern cotton gin/fertilizer business, known as Hunter Gin (Malcolm Hunter). There were more grocery/general merchandise stores. Some of these were the updated Misner Store, Lloyd Carwell Store, Sam Anderson Store, Edward Balch Store and the Lewis Store. Grover Holcomb had a store and sold tickets for Missouri Pacific Bus Lines. Saturdays brought a hubbub of activity to the streets of Cherry Valley when folks from out-lying areas "went to town" to stock up on supplies and the latest gossip. During and shortly after the War many citizens rode the morning bus to Memphis for shopping and returned in the late afternoon on the train. In my freshman year at Cherry Valley High School I used this schedule to attend, riding the morning bus to school and back home in the afternoon on the train to White Hall where I lived. There were no school buses then and students were responsible for their own transportation. There was a theater (Sunshine Theater) owned by

Burley and Martha Graves that operated for a while, even with a late night showing on Saturday nights. The original Cherry Valley school was a two-story red brick building, with a large gym constructed as a WPA project before the war, and included all twelve grades. There was a very active basketball program with enthusiastic local support and friendly rivalry with surrounding towns. As the number of students increased, an elementary school was constructed and grades one through six moved across town during the 1952-53 school year. The original building burned in 1962, and the students were transported to Harrisburg for several years. A new consolidated high school (Cross County High School) was later built which still educates students from Cherry Valley, Vandale and Hickory Ridge. An annual reunion is held each year for everyone who ever attended Cherry Valley Schools. Anyone who is interested in information about these reunions may contact glesley@midsouth.rr.com There currently remains a restaurant, a dollar store and an Exxon Station, First National Bank and Cross County Bank. Few of the original families are left.....only memories. Not even a grocery store and so it goes...P. S. On a visit to the Parker Homestead (in White Hall) I saw on display a small white satin child's coffin from the old Z. N. Halk store, donated by Grandson Norman Halk. There was an old ledger of accounts also, dating back many years. The Homestead is located in White Hall and contains many artifacts of years gone by, including an original and restored log cabin once occupied by a family from Cherry Valley. If any of my memories are inaccurate I apologize and may be contacted at mlmann@pcsii.com. Memo: I neglected to add that at one time Earl Dexter owned and operated a Ford Dealership. How could I forget since this is where I purchased my first car...a White one with red interior, four-door and "good to go". Also, there was an old hotel located approximately where the Bank of Cherry Valley, now First National Bank, stands. It was owned and operated by a Mrs. Clampit, and later became a grocery store run by Jeff Clampit, her son. As this is a WIP (work in progress, in quilting terms) I will be adding to it if someone wishes to add something. We thank Mary Lee Mann for her contribution to the ERA.

Cleburne: Cleburne, named after Patrick R. Cleburne, a Confederate general from Helena, Arkansas, who had been Col. Cross's commander in the Civil War, was located in the center of the county. Col. Cross deeded the center block in the town containing 3/5 acre to the county on which to build a courthouse. His residence on the site was used as a temporary courthouse. The county seat was at Cleburne from 1865 to 1868. As early as 1866, petitions had been circulated asking that the seat be changed to Wittsburg. In June 1868, three locating commissioners were elected, and in October 1868, they selected Wittsburg,

Coldwater:

Colton Crossing:

Dunn:

Duvall:

Ellis Chapel: From Wynne, go west on AR 284 for about 8 miles to AR 193. Turn left (south) for a short distance then turn right (west) onto AR 284 again.

Fair Field:

Fair Oaks

Fitzgerald Crossing: From Wynne go south on AR 1 to Fitzgerald Crossing. Turn left (east) onto CR 744

Flag Lake Crossing:

Fortune:

Gieseck: Gieseck Community on Hwy 75, south of Parkin

Gladden:

Goat City: Remember Goat City, near Parkin? Per Cross Co. Historical Society-Vol.6-No.2-Spring 2010: It is located about four miles northwest of Parkin, Arkansas on Highway 75. In the 1920s Leonard William Hipp owned a saw mill there. Mr. Hipp one day decided to give his little mill area a name. He noticed all the worrisome goats running loose and named the place in honor of—or in spite of—all those nosy goats. He cut a slab of wood, carved the words —Goat City|| on it and nailed it to a tree. The name stuck. Esther Williams was born near the sawmill. Several years later in 1947, Esther Williams (Killough), from Goat City, was named Miss Cross County, Arkansas. That in itself would put Goat City on the map.

Hamlin:

Hickory Ridge: 2000 Census, 384 people

L'Anguille:

Levesque: Named for Capt. J. M. Levesque, the worthy and esteemed county clerk of Cross County, enlisted at the outbreak of the Civil War, in Company C of the Thirteenth Arkansas Infantry, the first regiment organized in that part of the State, Cross County, and was immediately elected orderly-sergeant of his company. The regiment was sent to Fort Pillow, and thence to Kentucky, and was also in the battle of Belmont, Mo., November 7, 1861, evacuating at Columbus, Ky., in March, 1862. At the battle of Shiloh, April 6, 1862, Lt. Joe Hall was wounded, and Mr. Levesque was chosen to fill his place as second lieutenant. Shortly after this the first lieutenant was wounded and discharged, and our subject was elected to his position, and at the reorganization of the regiment at Corinth, in April, 1862, he was elected captain, and served through the Alabama and Kentucky campaign, also participating in the battles of Richmond, Ky., under Kirby Smith, at Perryville, Ky., and Murphreesboro, Tenn. At the reorganization of the army, he was sent to the Trans-Mississippi Department, and there engaged in recruiting a company of cavalry, mostly from

Cross County; was in a number of skirmishes, but not in any important battles, his company going on the Missouri raid under Gen. Price. At the close of the war, he took up farming as an occupation, buying a farm of 336 acres, near Vanndale, but in 1866 he was elected circuit and county clerk of Cross County, which office he held until the reconstruction of the county, when he was disfranchised for having held office at the beginning of the war, and in participating in the Rebellion. He then again engaged in farming, in which he continued until 1874, during which time he improved his farm, and adding to it, till in 1878, he was the owner of 2,000 acres of land. In 1874 he was elected sheriff of Cross County, and was re-elected in 1876, and again in 1878. In 1880 he was elected circuit and county clerk, and was also re-elected to that office in 1882, 1884, 1886 and 1888, and is the present incumbent of this office, and that he has given satisfaction is shown by the fact of his having been elected to the same office for four terms in succession. In 1868 he was selected as one of the three men on a locating committee, to choose a site for the county seat, which was then changed to Wittsburg, and in 1885 was appointed one of the committee which located the seat of justice in Vanndale. Mr. Levesque was born in Fayette County, Tenn., in 1834, and was the son of James and Elizabeth (Arnett) Levesque, natives of Tennessee and Mississippi, respectively. His father was a farmer by occupation, and died when our subject was five years old. His mother dying when he was the age of thirteen, he then went to live with an uncle, the Rev. William Levesque, of Alabama, remaining with him until he was sixteen years of age, when he then returned to Fayette County, and was employed as a farm overseer until 1854. In this year he was married to Miss Nannie Willis, of Tennessee origin, and in the fall of that year he removed to Arkansas, settling in Cross County, in what was then a part of Poinsett County. Here he was again employed as a farm overseer, until 1860, when he was elected constable of Mitchell Township, and which office he held until the breaking out of the Rebellion, and the call for men for the Confederate service, to which he responded so readily. He has been a delegate to the Democratic State Convention every year since 1876, and has the unbounded confidence of his party, which he has never betrayed, and is so wholly depended upon that he goes uninstructed and uses his own judgement in the convention. The results of this marriage are five children, three of whom are still living: Elizabeth (wife of Thomas B. Smith, of Cold Water Township), Fannie (wife of Isaac Block, of Wynne), Willie T. (married and resides in Cold Water Township), James Cheatham (deceased) and John Phillip (deceased). Capt. Levesque owns considerable property in different places throughout the county, and owns some 2,000 acres of land, of which there are 800 under cultivation. His farm, on which his son resides, is a field of 500 acres, which is as level as a floor, and on which are good buildings, mills, gins, barns, etc., in fact everything needed to carry on a well-equipped farm. When the Bald Knob Railroad was built through Cross County, the company named a station in honor of our subject, and Levesque Lodge No. 52 K. of P., is also named after him. Capt. Levesque has been connected with the Masonic fraternity since 1861, and a member of the Chapter since 1872, and became a Knight Templar in 1889. He also belongs to the K. of P.K., K. of H. and the K. & L. of H., and I.O.O.F. The Captain is one of the most influential politicians of the county, and a highly

respected man, and one of the county's self-made men, having come to it as a laborer, and is now a wealthy man, all due to his own efforts and honest industry. [Per Jason Presley]

Love Place:

McDonald:

McElroy: Named for A. J. McElroy, served four years in the Confederate service during the late war as a member of Company B, Mcrae's Regiment, and participated in the battles of Helena, Red River, Prairie Grove and a number of other battles and skirmishes, remaining in the field of duty until the surrender in 1865. Leaving home at age twenty-six he engaged in farming on 160 acres of land which he had bought in this county, and where he still resides. He now has upward of 100 acres under cultivation, with good buildings and good stock. Mr. McElroy was born in Georgia in 1833, as the son of John and Mary (Stephenson) McElroy, natives of South Carolina. Soon after the latter's marriage, he came to Georgia, remaining until 1848, when he moved to Arkansas, settling in this county, where he entered 480 acres of land. Here he lived until his death in 1866, at the age of sixty-eight years. He was four times married. His first wife, Miss Shy, became the mother of one child, now deceased. By his second wife (Miss Belk) he had five children, only one of whom survives: J. C. (of this county). After her death, Mr. McElroy was married to Mary Stephenson, who died in 1859 (continues on page 370) [per Jason Presley]

Merck:

Mersman:

Monterey:

Mounds:

Parkin:2000 Census has 1,602 people. On the St.Francis River. [**Parkin Archeological State Park**](#), also known as Parkin Indian Mound, is an [**archaeological**](#) site and state park in Parkin.

Pineville: April 18, 1863, they chose Pineville as the county seat. Dr. B. D. McClaran was the first County Clerk. No courthouse was erected at Pineville. Dr. McClaran lived near Pineville and the county's business was conducted in his home. In May, 1865, commissioners met at Pineville and selected the town of Cleburne as the next county seat.

Pittinger:

Pleasant Hill:

Princedale:

River Front:

Riverside:

Rose Place:

Smith Chapel: From Wynne, go 4 miles south on AR 1 to AR 350. Turn right (west) onto AR 350 and go 3 miles.

Smithdale:

St. Francis: or Mount Hope: From Cross Co. Historical Society-Vol.4, No.4-Fall 2009 Shown on Find A Grave: St. Francisville Cemetery, Cross Co., Ark. Buried at Mt. Hope Cemetery in old St. Francis, Arkansas. Might these be some of your people? If so, contact George Anne Draper at 870- 238-2802 or g.draper@att.net. Tombstones: Dan Boone 2/9/1844 to 10/20/1904/E.W. Chappelle 4/7/1817 to 5/30/1868/Mary Dixon 6/6/1872 to 3/12/1894 (her parents are listed as being founders of Wynne Pres. Church)/Wade H. Pippin died 3/10/1896/Bertha Pippin died 5/1/1903/Jay Milton Wilfong 4/11/1866 to 8/6/1866 died at 3 months His mother joined Mt. Hope Presbyterian Church; her name is in the session records. On FAG with Tstone- 12584159/John M. Koonce 2/22/1854 to 9/25/1882/Mary Johnnie Koonce 2/21/1882 to 2/8/1887 baptized at Wynne Presbyterian Church/Kate Reynolds Koonce 11/10/1879 to 8/21/1893 baptized at Wynne Presbyterian Church/Sarah Roberts 7/9/1808 to 1/7/1892/Saphrona Hartwell 1/10/1837 to 8/22/1885/Fidelie Thomson 12/30/1838 to 9/10/1885= Abandoned Cemetery and Village Found Near Wynne. While investigating his newly purchased property approximately 15 years ago, Scott Draper discovered several tombstones pushed into a ravine. After researching the scant history of the community which has been listed under Phillips County, Crittenden County, Saint Francis County and Cross County, Draper determined that his property is very likely the lost community of St. Francis. The cemetery on the land contains the names of people who were connected to the Mt. Hope Presbyterian Church, a forerunner of the present Wynne Presbyterian Church. These facts were confirmed in a copy of the Presbyterian Sessions Book begun at the establishment of the Mt. Hope Church in the mid 1800s by Cephas Washburn, a famous Presbyterian minister and pastor to the Cherokees. While the overall quality of the Mt. Hope Cemetery has been compromised over the last hundred years, the integrity of the site is intact because of the setting, the feeling of its history and the association with important events in the history of Northeast Arkansas. To reach the cemetery, one walks through a pasture to a protective grove of trees. One gets a sense of a place where life was lived at its fullest in the distant past, a place where people lived in fairly secluded communities. The setting is important because in researching the meager history that can be located, famous names like Connetoo,

Cephas Washburn and Daniel Boone, a possible descendant of the first Daniel Boone, are connected to the land. The Burr's map and the map found in the Historical Atlas of Arkansas, show St. Francis, an early settlement that was home to pioneers of Indian and European heritage, in the same location as the Mt. Hope Cemetery. The buildings no longer stand, but their existence is evident in the grass that is thicker and fuller in an 80 by 80 plot where the Mt. Hope Presbyterian Church stood. The cemetery and its 12 remaining gravestones are indicative of a simpler time in the middle 19th Century to the early 20th Century. The existing stones mark the lives of twelve people with little more than their birth and death dates and a few with the Masonic symbol. Part of the problem with determining the importance and credibility of this site is the confusion about the name St. Francis. There was an earlier St. Francis that became Helena, and then the name of the local important waterway, the St. Francis River, causes confusion as well. However, the historical directory of Arkansas Post offices of 1832-1990 lists St. Francis post office from 1832 - 1856. A very old map shows St. Francis to be 3 miles southeast of Wynne, exactly where the Draper acres are located. Nowhere is this community of St. Francis recognized in any modern history books, although it is marked on some rare old maps. Many graves lie in the area, some marked and some not; two more cemeteries lie within walking distance, indicating a once populated area because families buried their loved ones close to home in historical times. If this area is to be preserved for future generations to study and to enjoy, it must be investigated by qualified anthropologists and archaeologists, brought to the attention of state and national preservation organizations, and properly developed and opened for public viewing. In the meantime, Draper is giving his undivided attention to maintenance and preservation. Tours of the site can be arranged by calling Scott Draper at 870-208-8265.(Story submitted by Scott and George Anne Draper-With Permission of Author.)

Tilton:From Fair Oaks, go north on 49 to Tilton

Togo: Togo, Arkansas? How did this little town get its name? We have received a note from Mrs. Jeannean Wood McCutchen of Parkin, daughter of Tom Wood, regarding the naming of the little town of Togo. It seems there are two stories floating about, and Mrs. McCutchen wants us to know her

story of the naming of Togo as told to her by her “Grand Paw Wood” who owned the property. First, the story others know: There was a high-ranking and famous Japanese warrior named Togo Heihachiro who was born in 1848. He was such a good warrior that he was elevated to koshaku (marquis) by Emperor Hirohito on May 29, 1934. The following day Togo died at age 86. Because Admiral Togo was Internationally respected, Great Britain, the United States, the Netherlands, France, Italy, and China all sent warships to take part in a Tokyo Bay naval parade in the late admiral's honor. Mrs. McCutchen's story as told by Grand Paw Wood: Many years ago, Mr. Wood bought some heavily timbered property near Parkin. The men worked hard out in the forest and enjoyed having good food followed by good beer. Mr. Wood kept his men happy. Their supplies, which came down the Mississippi from St. Louis to Memphis, always had a large supply of beer. Mr. Wood could supply the beer; however, he had trouble delivering their mail. The men had to send and receive mail whenever someone went to Parkin or Earle. They began to mention having their own post office. Mr. Wood looked into the possibilities and learned that in order to have a post office, the place must have a name. After many names were tossed around, one of the men jokingly suggested that they name the little timber community “Togo” in honor of their Togo Beer. States Mrs. McCutchen, “Grand Paw Wood would laugh to think any of the loggers would even know who a Japanese admiral was in that day and time.”

Turney:

Twist: Unincorporated town

Vanndale: Formerly Oak Grove- is an [unincorporated community](#) in [Searcy Township](#), [Cross County](#), [Arkansas](#), [United States](#).^[1] Vanndale was the [county seat](#) of Cross County from 1886 until 1903, when it was moved to the booming railroad town of [Wynne](#). The community was named for John W. Vann, postmaster. Vanndale was formerly on [Arkansas Highway 1](#), but has now been bypassed by a [city route](#). The first (brick) courthouse was built there in 1888. Meanwhile, the town of Wynne, south of Vanndale, was growing. Named for John M. Vann, who went to Arkansas with his parents in 1850, when he was only five years of age, and his home was always within a few miles of the spot selected by his father, Renselear Vann, for a home when he went from Fayette County, Tenn., to Cross County (then St. Francis), Ark. Just as he was preparing to go away to school the war came on, and John, like many other boys, felt the call of duty and made a brave young soldier. He was only nineteen when the "war closed. He enlisted in Company A, McGehee's Regiment, and served nearly four years. Mr. Vann engaged in business in 1868 and continued the life of a merchant-farmer for forty-five years. He was successful and enjoyed the fullest confidence of a loyal line of

customers, who came to him for advice and counsel even in most intimate and private matters. The statesman sought his advice; the politician begged his support, because a multitude followed when it became known that the candidate would have the support of J. M. Vann; the widow trusted him; the broken-hearted confided in him; the preacher leaned upon him. He never sought a crowd, but once in it he was the life of it. He loved a clean story and was an artist in telling one. He was married to Miss Ida Hare, daughter of Rev. Thomas Hare, and their children were Claude, Thomas, and Bessie.

Welford:

Wick Mill:

Wilkins:

Wittsburg: The town of Wittsburg was designated as the first county seat, but due to Union forces patrolling the area during the Civil War, county business could not be conducted there. Three commissioners were chosen to decide where the county seat should be located. by now a thriving river port, as the next county seat. Wittsburg was the county seat from 1868 to 1884. In 1882, when the Helena branch of the Iron Mountain and Southern n Railroad was completed, Wittsburg began to decline. Steam trains were replacing steamboats. Many business and professional people were moving to Vanndale, which was located on the new railroad. An election was held, and in 1884, Vanndale was declared the next county seat.

Wrape:

Wynne: Wynne started in 1882 when a train derailed, leaving one boxcar without wheels and off the tracks. The boxcar was placed upright and designated Wynne Station in compliment to Capt. Jessie Watkins Wynne, a veteran of the Civil War and a prominent businessman and banker of Forrest City, Arkansas. Wynne was formally incorporated May 28, 1888. In July, 1903, a petition was presented to the county court, asking that an election be held to move the county seat from Vanndale to Wynne. Wynne won the election and has remained the county seat of Cross County, Arkansas

Yarbo Place:

Arkansas Post Offices
Cross County, Arkansas

Apt (1897-1907) * _

Bay Of Saint Francis (1832-1832) * _

Bay Village (1877-1911) * _

Bayspur (1897-1904) * _

Birdeye (1904-2002) * _

Brushy Lake (1876-1880) * _

Cherry Valley (1870-Date) * _

Cleburne (1867/1879) * _
Cold Water (1854/1873) * _
Coldwater (1877-1878) * _
Deasmond (1918-1922) * _
Delta (1880-1881) * _
Eureka (1853/1881) * _
Fair Oaks (1950-1959) * _
Fair Oaks Rur. Sta. (1959-Date) * _
Fairoaks (1894/1950) * _
Fairview (1832-1834) * _
Gladden (1922-1924) * _
Hamlin (1889-1930) * _
Hickory Ridge (1875-Date) * _
Jonesborough (1859-1894) * _
L'anguille (1875/1882) * _
Langeal (1888-1892) * _
Leedsville (1892-1895) * _
Levesque (1888/1924) * _

Loveland (1881-1883) * _
McDonald (1900/1908) * _
Mebaneville (1881-1891) * _
Mirsman (1908-1916) * _
Nolton (1883-1892) * _
Parkin (1897-Date) * _
Poe (1880-1881) * _
Princedale (1904/1920) * _
Sharpsburgh (1870/1873) * _
Siebley (1914-1914) * _
Smithdale (1892-1922) * _
Stuart (1877-1886) * _
Tilton (1892-1974) * _
Togo (1906-1914) * _
Twist (1916-2002) * _
Tyronza (1872-1892) * _
Vanndale (1879-Date) * _
Wittsburg (1894-1900) * _
Wittsburgh (1848/1894) * _
Wynne (1882-Date) * _

Post office Information compliments of Jim Forte. With Permission

To see more information on Post Offices: <http://www.postalhistory.com/>

Prepared by Paul V.Isbell-March 16,2011