

Hill in Governor James Miller. He returned to New Hampshire the next year and never returned to Arkansas."

A brief, final record of Governor Miller's adventures in Arkansas real estate is dated May 20, 1823, when Chester Ashley et al sold to Governor James Miller for \$100, lots 10-11-12 in the city of Little Rock, and five additional lots in Block 75 of said city.

There is an aftermath to this story. In 1843, almost 20 years later, Miller's townsite at Crystal Hill was sold at sheriff's sale for non-payment of taxes, and William E. Woodruff bought the town for \$3.99½.

Judge Utley liked to visit the site, talk with the people who lived there, and seek out signs of its former status.— In 1933--the year he met Tom Young--he noted as "signs of departed glory" old brick chimneys and foundations of the once stately homes, a large brickyard, and the wharfage grounds.

At the juncture of Crystal Hill road with the Conway Pike, about five miles west of Levy, is the large home of George Heilman. He showed Judge Utley large timbers in the structure which he claimed were part of Governor Miller's home. Heilman's father had purchased the house and razed it, floating the timbers down the river to the mouth of White Oak Bayou, where they were taken overland to the present site.

When I first studied Judge Utley's notes it seemed quite up to date that he had written them from the abstract of Tom Young's property. Then suddenly 1933 protruded itself as being all of 20 years ago; perhaps it would be well to investigate the present status of the east half of the northeast quarter, Sec. 5, Twp. 2N, R. 13W, north of the Arkansas river. On a recent map obtained from the Pulaski County Planning Board, I located the historic spot. It is now right back where it was 150 years ago, owned by the United States government, acquired by direct purchase September 20, 1941. It has been absorbed in the land of the Maumelle Ordinance Plant.

THE GOLD RUSH

At the beginning of this article reference was made to the Gold Rush, which has a place more or less mythical in Arkansas history. Frequently when Crystal Hill is mentioned, someone may inquire, "Crystal Hill, isn't that where the Gold Rush centered?"

While the so-called gold rush has no immediate bearing on this article, still the Crystal Hill of this story is involved. According to the historian, Shinn, in 1812 a neighbor of John Pyeatt's, a Frenchman, Louis Brangiere, discovered ledges of crystal in a bluff about a mile below White Oak Bayou. Mistaking them for silver he became a prospector and developer of mines. He spent considerable money in developing them. Shinn further recounts that Brangiere bought up so many pre-emption claims in the immediate territory it seemed definitely to indicate his intention to own the entire land known as Crystal Hill. This later brought on long and violent legal battles between him and General Edmund Hogan in which the General eventually was victorious and Brangiere faded from the picture. It is assumed by several