

In 1826, with the title to original city temporarily settled without using the Franks claim, Russell wrote to Chester Ashley, "Peter Franks, whose right and claim I now own, prior to 12th April, 1814, inhabited where Col. Drope now lives (on Block A) and cleared and cultivated a piece of land in the same farm now occupied by Mrs. Hardin." This places Franks in the location specified by the deed, as Block A adjoins the Little Rock to the east, and Mrs. Holly Hardin's field was a short distance east of that.

Russell also said of Franks, "He cultivated in 1814 in time to hold a pre-emption, but I am not sure that he inhabited the place in time." If this is construed to mean that the Franks family lived with somebody else for a while after they arrived here, the chances are that they may have shared the home of one of the other settlers who moved to Natchitoches parish, Louisiana. Like Bevils, Stewart, and Leshee, and possibly with them, Franks moved to that locality between 1814 and 1819.

REUBEN EASTIN and his wife Patsy sold their 48--acre claim to William Drope on July 10, 1820. The deed identified the property as follows: "A tract of land lying on the lake about one mile below James Lemon tract of land on which he now resides and being the same on which the said Eastin now resides and has done since the year 1812 and lying on the north Side of the Arkansas river and about one mile distant from said river which said tract of land having been settled inhabited and cultivated by me prior to the tenth day of April 1813." James Lemons lived opposite Little Rock, exact location not established. The lake referred to no longer exists, and may have been one of the many cypress bogs that then covered the present site of North Little Rock.

GEORGE STEWART had his home on the N $\frac{1}{2}$  Sec. 1, T 1 N, R 12 W. This is a fractional half-section on the north bank of the river. He lived here prior to 1814, and moved to Natchitoches parish, Louisiana between 1814 and 1819, as did John Bevil, Peter Franks and Joseph Leshee. He was living there in 1819 when he sold his Arkansas claim to William Russell.

JOHN BEVIL and his wife Fanny lived north of the river, in the S frl.  $\frac{1}{2}$  Sec. 34, T 2 N, R 12 W, now covered by a part of the western section of the city of North Little Rock. This land is low, marshy, and until recent years was subject to frequent inundations. The Bevils were here at least as early as 1813, and possibly earlier. They later moved to Natchitoches parish, Louisiana, near the Sabine river, where they were living in 1819 when William Russell bought their Arkansas claim.

It will be noted that the settlement at and near Little Rock, as described here, extended eastward to the first big bend in the river below the rock, and westward to Big Rock Mountain. Part II of "Squatters Rights" will appear in our next issue, and will deal with the settlement at Crystal Hill, beginning on the west side of Big Rock. By combining the map in this issue with those in succeeding issues, we hope to show a continuous picture of the settlements along the Arkansas river prior to 1814.