

session for three years at one time and two years at another time and trading by Joseph Duchassin. The location of that claim is not given in the record.

Duchassin is known to have followed Joseph Leshee at Old Imbeau's original improvement in Sec. 2, T 1 N, R 12 W, just east of the Little Rock. He stayed here for one, two, or more years before 1814. Another pre-emption was granted to William D. Simms, as assignee of Joseph Duchassin, on parts of Secs. 11 and 12, T 1 N, R 11 W, adjoining Caddy Coussatt's claim.

In 1814, Joseph Duchassin was ensign of the 1st Company, 2d Battalion, 7th Regiment of Missouri Territorial Militia. This company was composed of men living in the Crystal Hill-Little Rock area.

Joseph Duchassin had two brothers, Antoine and Francis, and a sister Felicity, who married Joseph Bartholomew. They were of French and Quapaw descent, and both Joseph and Antoine received land grants by the 1824 Quapaw treaty. Joseph's grant was a quarter section "commencing at the lower corner of the quarter section granted to Francis Imbeau and running down and back from said line for quantity." Francis Duchassin lived on Quapaw land near Little Rock in 1821, but we find no record of his pre-emption claim, if any. Antoine Duchassin in 1802 or 1803 cultivated land near Arkansas Post, but probably lived nearer his family at other times.

JOSEPH LESHEE was a Frenchman, and apparently spoke only the French language. After John Baptiste Imbeau abandoned his first homesite on the south side of the Arkansas river, Joseph Leshee lived at the same location from one to three years. He then went to Louisiana, and in 1826 was living 15 or 20 miles southwest of Natchitoches. Unless the law was liberally interpreted, his removal to Louisiana prior to 1814 would automatically defeat his claim; yet William Russell said he would rather own Leshee's claim than any of the others covering the same land, and as late as 1826 was still trying to make arrangements to buy it.

WILLIAM LEWIS is often referred to as the first white settler on the land that later became Original City of Little Rock. However, Chester Ashley, who opposed his claim, contended that he was not an actual settler, but merely a transient hunter. The most complete account of his residence here is a strongly biased one written by Ashley, and published in 1840 in a Memorial of Roswell Beebe to the General Assembly. Ashley, who was not here when Lewis was, of course wrote from hearsay:

"In July, 1812, a hunter, by the name of William Lewis, descended the Arkansas river, with his family, in a canoe, all sick, and landed at a spring on the south bank of the Arkansas river, now included within the NE 1/4 qr. of sec. 3, T 1 N, 12 W, (and about 200 yards above where the present State House is situated,) and after some days erected a camp about ten feet by eight, the top covered by clap-boards, and boards set up against the sides too low to stand up in, and open at the ends, and staid there about three months, subsisting wholly on the spontaneous productions of the earth, and the charity of the few neighbors on the