

north side of the river. In a few days after he made his camp, Lewis was ordered off by the Quapaw Indians, lest he should claim a right to the land. On his solemn assurance to the Indians that he had no wish or intention to settle or claim the land, and that he only wished to remain to drink the spring water until himself and family recovered their health, the Indians permitted him to remain temporarily until the health of his family was improved. He cleared no ground, (except cutting the bushes covered by his camp,) made no fence, nor planted anything, and cultivated nothing whatever, and in October of 1812, Lewis abandoned his camp, and went up the river hunting buffalo, and gave the boards to a neighbor who removed them. He never afterwards inhabited the said fractional quarter for a single day prior to 12th April 1814.

"During the time Lewis resided on said fraction he received from the charity of his neighbors, on the north bank of the river, all the vegetables himself and family used, and among others, large quantities of pumpkins, cucumbers, &c., which were consumed by Lewis and his family at said camp. After his return from the buffalo hunt, himself and family lived with William Mabbitt, on the north side of the Arkansas river, where he remained part of the year 1813, until he quarrelled with Mabbitt and separated from his wife, and went down the river and left the then Territory of Missouri. In March, 1814, Lewis returned in company with Gen. Hogan and lived with him and Mabbitt, on the north bank of the Arkansas river, until May, 1814; shortly after which he became reconciled with his wife, and removed himself and family out of the then Territory of Missouri, and never returned. In the fall of 1813, some persons happening at the scite of the abandoned camp of Lewis, found a flourishing growth of weeds, and one pumpkin vine, of stunted growth, running up a few inches on one of the forks of Lewis's abandoned camp, that contained one pumpkin about the size of "one's fist", and one sickly cucumber vine containing two cucumbers of the size of "one's little finger", both growing from the seed accidentally covered in the dirt floor of the camp the previous year...."

In the April, 1956 issue of the ARKANSAS VALLEY HISTORICAL PAPERS, Mary Lewis Lueker states that Gen. William Lewis, a prominent pioneer of Lewisburg, in what was later Conway county, Arkansas, was the same Lewis who set up his camp at Little Rock in 1812. However, in the same article war department records are quoted which place Gen. Lewis with the Fifth Kentucky Volunteer Militia, as a Lieutenant-Colonel, from August 14, 1812 until at least March 27, 1814, during most of which time he was a British prisoner of war in Canada. Consequently, if the dates in Chester Ashley's account are even approximately correct, he could not possibly have been the same William Lewis who held a pre-emption claim at Little Rock.

WILLIAM MABBETT appears first in the Arkansas records as the executor of the estate of his father-in-law, Leonard Kepler, in his will dated July 1, 1808 and filed Sept. 14, 1809. He bought and sold land and slaves at or near Arkansas Post from 1808 until 1811, and probably lived there, but later moved to the vicinity of Little Rock. He is known to have lived on the north side of the river in 1813 and at least up to May of 1814 (see William Lewis). Before 1826, his pre-emption claim had become the property of William Trimble and George Scott. He also held a