

MARRIAGE BONDS
AND
MINISTERS' RETURNS
OF
UNION COUNTY, ARKANSAS
1829 to 1870

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Annie Laurie Spencer

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APPRECIATION

Only with the help of others can we accomplish anything. I am greatly indebted to those who made this book possible and I appreciate all of the help they gave:

Mr. E. Euler, St. Louis, Missouri; Miss Virgie Heck, director of student scholarships, LSU, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.
Dr. James Price, Director, School of Journalism, LSU, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.
Catharine Lindsay Knorr, Pine Bluff, Arkansas, from whom I learned so much.

Pansy Jean Bryant (Mrs. Jake), County Clerk of Union County, and her deputies Velma Deason (Mrs. John), Madeline Rucks, and Altha Dean Nash (Mrs. Stanley), who gave me access to the records at anytime I could work, and especially am I grateful to Mrs. Bryant because she let me take the certificates home to abstract and index. The original index was placed in the box with the certificates and are now in the County Clerk's office.

Dr. W. J. Lemke, formerly Director of Department of Journalism, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, Arkansas.

Margaret Smith Ross, Arkansas Gazette, Little Rock, Arkansas.

J. H. Atkinson, Arkansas History Commission, Little Rock, Arkansas.

Dr. Robert R. Logan, Professor, College of Business, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, Arkansas.

Mrs. Frank Cline, 214 Summer Street, Hot Springs, Arkansas.

The El Dorado Printing Company and especially the late Ike Alpuente, Ed Alpuente and Ruiz Ann Alpuente Sample.

Faith Dumont Pepper (Mrs. L. Z.), Ruddell Acres, El Dorado, Arkansas, who typed the stencils and worked as I did.

Carl Amason, Callon, Arkansas, who bought the first book.

All of those who ordered prior to publication. You kept me working by your encouragement and your desire for the records.

El Dorado Real Estate Co., Inc., and last but not least, my family Mr. and Mrs. J. V. Spencer, my parents, Mary Spencer Riley (Mrs. E. A., Jr.), my sister, and James Victor Spencer, Jr., my brother, who were patient with my cluttered room and late-at-night typing and gave me encouragement. Without the help from all of these, this book would never have been published.

ARKANSAS, 1803

Hempstead 12/15/1818 Clark 12/15/1818

UNION
November 2, 1829



An act to erect and establish the County of Union.

Sec. 1. Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Territory of Arkansas; That all that portion of the county of Hempstead and Clark, bounded as follows, viz: beginning on the Louisiana line, where it crosses the military road leading from Natchitoches to Cantorment Towson; thence with said road to the north-east corner of Lafayette; thence a direct line to Big Caney Creek, at a point where the road leading from the town of Washington to Cote a Fable crosses the same; thence down the said creek to its junction with the Little Missouri; thence down the said river to the Washita; thence north-east to Saline Bayou; thence to the north-west corner of Chicot county; thence due south to the Louisiana line; thence West to the beginning; be, and the same is hereby, erected into a separate and distinct county, to be called and known by the name of the county of Union. (Acts, Passed at the Sixth Session of the General Assembly of the Territory of Arkansas: Little Rock: Printed by William E. Woodruff, Printer to the Territory, 1830. pp. 51-54).

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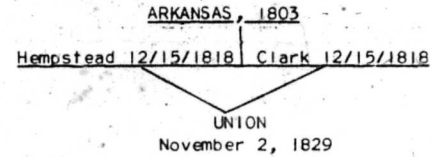
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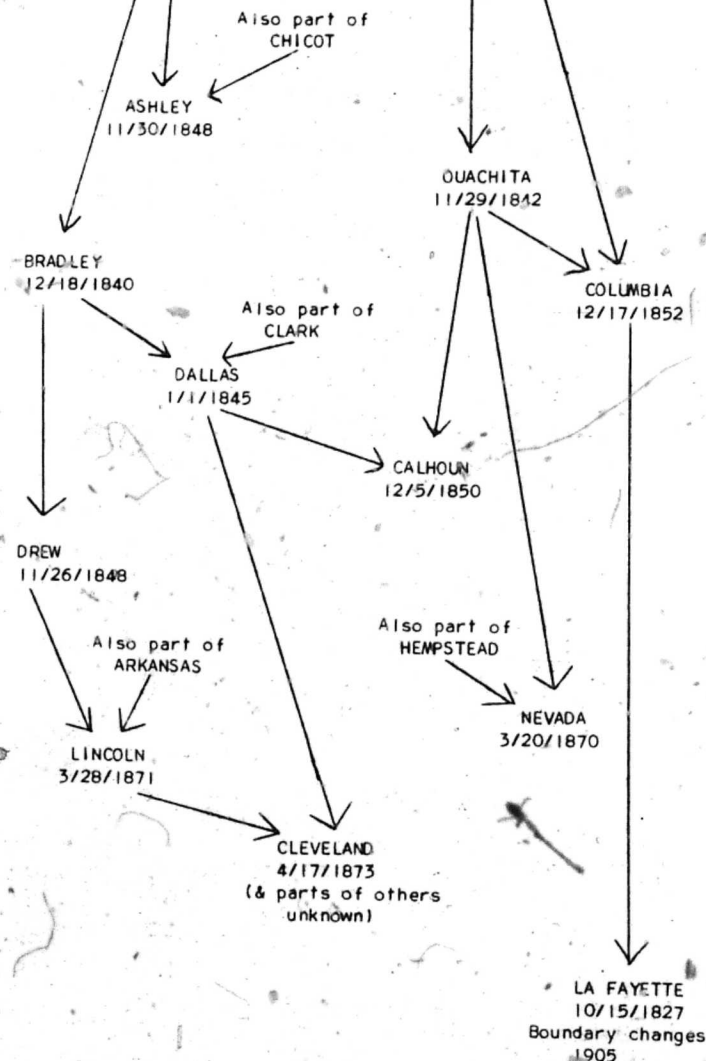
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UNION COUNTY FORMED NOVEMBER 2, 1829



PREFACE

Union County, Arkansas's largest, is also one of the most important to genealogists. It was created in 1829 out of territory taken from Clark and Hempstead, and the records are well preserved from that time. Twelve counties were taken in whole or in part from Union County, and these early records contain much genealogical material on their early settlers.

De Soto was the first white man in the area that became Union County. In 1541 his expedition camped from November to March, 1542, on Champagnolle Hill near the present Town of Calion. The white man has lived in this area since that time, but unfortunately no records have been kept. One of De Soto's men, Juan Gutman, refused to leave his Indian maiden when they broke camp. He married her and when the French came into the area more than a hundred years later, Indians were found who claimed descent from this marriage. Four journals were kept of De Soto's expedition, scant and sketchy records exist for the French, and not until the Louisiana Purchase in 1803 do the present records begin.

Arkansas County, which was the entire State of Arkansas, was first a part of the Territory of Louisiana and then transferred to the Territory of Missouri before Arkansas became a territory. Arkansas Post, older than New Orleans, was the oldest settlement in the entire Louisiana Purchase. Located on the Arkansas River, not far from the Town of DeVine, Arkansas Post became an important center for Indian traders, hunters and farmers who spread out over the state.

An Indian or animal trail that began at the Mississippi River in Chicot County near Villemont crossed Union County. De Soto followed this trail on his return trip to the Mississippi River in 1542. This trail crossed the Red River near the present Town of Fulton and became one of the most important military roads after the white man came. From names found in Union County as: LaPile Creek, Ecore A Fabre, Frank LaPeer Creek (legend is he drowned in this creek in a flash flood and the creek thus was named), Champagnolle, Labieff, Foyle, and other French names that still cling to the area, it is logical that French settlers came by the rivers - Ouachita, Saline, Little Missouri - and by this trail.

First county court met at the home of John Nunn in Ecore A Fabre (Now Camden), and the first county officials were J. T. Cabeen, County Clerk; Jonathan Black, Judge; Jonathan Black, Jr., Sheriff; Thomas O'Neill, Surveyor

and Alexander Beard, Coroner. Ecore A Fabre served as county seat until 1839 when E. S. Franklin, J. H. Pearce and William Young were appointed commissioners to select a county seat. They chose Scarborough's Landing and recommended that the name be changed to Champagnolle.

Champagnolle served as county seat until 1843. On June 10, 1843 a petition was presented to county court asking that a new county seat be selected that would be in the center of the county. An election was held in August, 1843 and Robert Johnson Black, John R. Hampton and John Reynolds were elected commissioners to select a county seat centrally located. In October Term of Court, Robert Johnson Black and John R. Hampton filed a report, selecting the site where El Dorado now stands. John Reynolds resigned from the commission and Green Newton was appointed to take his place.

The October Term of Court ordered the Commissioners to acquire the land, then owned by Mathew F. Rainey, and to go ahead with the establishment of a town. Mathew F. Rainey deeded the 160 acres to the commissioners reserving five acres where his house stood. This is now the Rufus N. Garrett Estate.

Marcellus Black was employed as surveyor to lay off the 160 acres into town lots. A court house was built and the records were moved from Champagnolle. Nothing in the records shows why the name El Dorado was chosen, but a common expression in that era when a wagon train passed through South Carolina was, "They are headed for their El Dorado." So, it was logical for Robert Johnson Black and John R. Hampton or others connected with the establishment of El Dorado to choose this name.

Union County served as a passage-way to the West and great caravans of early settlers left the county between 1865 to 1875 headed for Texas. Many settlers earlier stopped a few years in Union County before pushing westward. This area is a genealogical gap between the Eastern States and the Western States, for that reason, it is important. The wide area that embraced the original county and the excellent preservation of the records made this book a must to those who love genealogy.

Annie Laurie Spencer

ABBREVIATIONS AND KEY

Original Certificates of marriage, carefully read, should be more accurate than the recorded marriage. For that reason these names are given as they appear on the certificate. Where there is a difference in the name given on the certificate and the name on the record, the name appearing on the record will be in parentheses. Dates and all other information given on the certificate is used. All differences that appear on the record are given in parentheses immediately after that which appears on the certificate.

Many names are hard to read. Dumas, and there were many, is sometimes written Dummus. This is exactly like Lummus in many of these. The D and L were often similar, and there were a few Lummus marriages. Samuel and Lemuel are almost impossible to separate. Goodwin is spelled the way the officiant thought, it should be and Robert Goodwin's name appears as Robert Gooden. No attempt has been made to correct any spelling. Remember to check every possible way that a name could be spelled. P's and B's are similar, C's and F's, and Q's and O's.

Immediately following the marriage will appear the book and page of the record in the records of Union County, Arkansas. Unless it is otherwise stated the book will be Marriage Book. All Marriage Books will be A, B and C with the page number after the letter. Many of the early marriages are recorded in the Circuit Clerk's Office in Deed Books. Deed Book will be abbreviated D.B. with the letter and page following. Other abbreviations are:

Cumberland Presbyterian Church,	CPC.
Missionary Baptist Church,	MBC.
Methodist Episcopal Church South	MECS.
Protestant Methodist Church	PMG.
Primitive Baptist Church	PBC.
Episcopal Protestant Church	EPC.
Christian Church, Methodist Church, Baptist Church,	
Presbyterian Church, Methodist Church of American	
Love and Judge of the County Court, Justice of the	
Peace, etc., are abbreviated with the first letters	
of each word.	

This book is published for your pleasure. Time has been taken to save you time in your search.